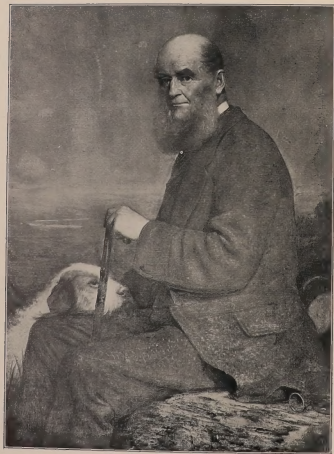




Helen Traffes-Lomax



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JOHN AND MARTHA DANIELS



JAMES LOMAX, 1881.

OTTER HUNTING DIARY

1829 to 1871

OF THE LATE

JAMES LOMAX, ESQ.

OF

CLAYTON HALL



Blackburn :

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PREFACE.



MR. LOMAX, the author of this Diary, was from youth upwards a keen otter-hunter. His father, before him, kept a pack of hounds, and in 1829 he started one of his own. While still comparatively young, by a gun accident, he lost his right hand, but this, as the following pages testify, in no way interfered with his enthusiasm and the energy which he threw into the chase.

His efficiency as a huntsman being sufficiently set forth in the obituary notice cited below from the authoritative columns of the *Field*, we shall here be satisfied with a notice of various points which his narrative suggests.

The chief theatre of his operations was furnished by the Ribble, the largest river in his neighbourhood, with its tributaries, Hodder, Calder, Loud, Hyndburn and Darwen, with the Douglas, Yarrow, and other streams in the neighbourhood of Chorley.

In north-west Lancashire the Wyre was sometimes hunted, with its tributary, the Brock, and more frequently the Lune, Wenning, and Greta, which are often mentioned.

In Yorkshire : the Wharfe, Aire, Nidd, Swale, Ure, and Tees ; in Northumberland, the Till.

On and about the Scottish Border: the Line, Esk, Liddel, Annan, Nith, as well as the Tweed, with the Teviot and minor tributaries, were visited. At one period Mr. Lomax tried various affluents of the Mersey, about Stockport.

North Wales was a favourite hunting ground ; the Clwyd, Elwy, Aled, Alyn, Dee and Vyrnwy affording frequent sport, and sometimes the Conway, Lugwy, and Lledr.

In 1833 an excursion to Kenilworth and the Avon and other streams in its vicinity, yielded, April 25th, amongst other trophies, the largest otter here recorded, which weighed thirty pounds.

In 1841 Herefordshire and Monmouthshire were visited, with their rivers, Lug, Minnow, and Frome.

Once, July, 1846, an expedition to Ireland was evidently in contemplation, but circumstances proving unpropitious, it came to nothing.

Besides the above-mentioned thirty-pounder—"The King of the Avon"—various other otters exhibited qualities which elicited special remark. One in the Annan, August 31st, 1832, Mr. Lomax declared to be "the toughest I ever had to do with"; and of another, July 31st, 1841, in Monmouthshire, which gave great trouble before it could be "sacked," it was said "I never handled a rougher otter." One, July 10th, 1834, was "the best swimming otter I ever saw," and one, July 18th, 1842, was "was as good a swimmer as ever I hunted," while yet another, which was finally spared after a "beautiful swim," July 27th, 1862, is described as "a large and merry otter." On May 10th, 1842, it was noted of that day's quarry "I never saw one who could run faster."

On some occasions very curious experiences were encountered. On the Lancashire Yarrow—April 30th and May 1st, 1849—the hounds were twice put off their scent by a flock of Muscovy ducks, after which they went "regularly wild." What was even more remarkable, in the Ribble, October 11th, 1866, the hounds were delayed for two hours in endeavouring to get at a large salmon, which "performed just like an otter."

Much interest was aroused in various parts by the performances of the pack, and considerable fields were frequently attracted to follow the hounds, the sportsmen frequently giving loud expression to their satisfaction and delight. So, likewise, did the populace of the neighbourhood, which occasionally had an opportunity of witnessing the sport.

Very seldom does there seem to have been any unpleasantness with those upon whose property the hunt might be supposed to trespass, though once such a gentleman appeared in a great fury and threatened to shoot the hounds. Another time, it is noted that a woman struck the huntsman, James Westell, over the head with a rake, no particulars being added.

All the hounds and their auxiliary terriers seem to have been personally known to their master, who took a keen interest in each, and was careful to note their individual performances. A particular favourite was "Plunder," on occasion of whose death, April 26th, 1835, his merits are fully and feelingly recorded.

During more than forty years of such sport, and particularly in the

case of one so severely crippled, it was inevitable that there should be accidents and mishaps: but of such things Mr. Lomax usually made but slight account, whether they were duckings in the river, or bites inflicted by otters on the faithful James Westell or himself. More serious were wounds from the hounds, which, especially on account of the excitement under which they were given, might, it was feared, have grave consequences. It is recorded, May 1st, 1862, that, in the fray at the otter's death, Mr. Reginald Weld, of Lulworth, then a student at Stonyhurst, was bitten by "Leader." His injury caused some anxiety, and he was laid up for some days: but happily no evil results ensued. At an earlier period, June 22nd, 1844, another hound, "Crownier," bit Mr. Lomax himself during the swim, and although he declared the wound to be "a mere scratch," he had it cut out and cauterized for safety's sake.

It was apprehension on the same score that finally closed the history of his otter-hounds with a melancholy catastrophe. In 1871 various symptoms suggested a fear that rabies had found its way into the kennel, whereupon, much as it must have cost him, Mr. Lomax thought it his duty to sacrifice the whole pack, while feeling that it was too late for him to attempt the formation of another.

In the orthography of proper names the original MS. has been strictly followed, although in the case of some less famous streams other forms may seem to have more authority.

On occasion of the death of Mr. Lomax, March 26th, 1886, the following notice was contributed to the *Field* by one who had hunted in his company:—

In Memoriam.

The death of Mr. James Lomax, Clayton Hall, Great Harwood, Lancashire, occurred last week, at the ripe age of 83 years. Well on in life, when succeeding to the family estates in 1845, he speedily made himself popular with his tenantry by liberality as a landlord, and with the poor by his beneficence. Early trained and educated at Stonyhurst College, the country round about afforded him ample opportunity to study the habits of animals and birds, and on the banks of the river Ribble, close by, it may be said Mr. Lomax inhaled that love of otter hunting, which subsequent events enabled him to follow to his heart's content. We find him affording capital sport as early as 1828 possibly earlier, and for over forty-three years he was master of a pack of otter hounds—the rough, hard, wary-jacketed ones—hunted by himself, and which, by continual association therewith, he had trained until they were actually perfect in the work. Thus they were required

to be, for the chief hunting "grounds" were on the banks and in the wide waters of the rivers Lune and Ribble. The tributary streams were not overlooked, nor were others in various parts of the country, and Squire Lomax was always ready to take his hounds, by invitation, into any district where prospect of sport was offered. His pack was never a large one. In 1857, we believe it was, we were out with him on the Lune from Lancaster upwards, when he ran only eight couples, but each hound knew his work well, and was absolutely reliable; uniformity of excellence was particularly apparent. In addition, he carefully noted a hound's peculiarity or excellence (when entered, if neither was found, it was at once drafted), and Mr. Lomax believed in an early meet. Three a.m. was not too soon for him; four in the morning was about his usual hour. Such characteristics as these led to his great success in the sport he loved so well and followed so ardently. No one could kill an otter in either Ribble or Lune with him, and when his meets were announced they meant capital sport, and were attended accordingly. About fifteen years or so ago these pleasant days of hunting were brought to an end. Rabies broke out in the kennels at Clayton Hall, and, though a severe struggle so to do, Mr. Lomax gave orders for the destruction of the whole of his hounds. This was at once brought about, and the most perfect pack of otter hounds ever formed by one man ceased to exist. Many were the expressions of sympathy; offers of assistance in the way of providing more hounds likewise poured in. The former were duly acknowledged, and, whilst thanking the various masters for their offers of help, he deemed his life all too short to accept them, replying: "By the time I have another pack perfect to my liking, I shall be too old to follow and enjoy their sport." But the name of James Lomax will never be forgotten by the hunters on the banks of the rivers his hounds hunted. Even now, old men point out the place at Tutty Wheel, where the Squire's little terrier, Crab, drove the otter into the stream, and the hounds killed him near where the Hodder joins the Ribble, after the best two hours and forty minutes ever enjoyed by "Lancashire lads."



TO OUR MOTHER
HER UNCLE'S
RECORD OF OTTER-HUNTING

IS DEDICATED BY
JOHN B. TRAPPES-LOMAX
AND
CHRISTOPHER N. TRAPPES-LOMAX.

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OTTER HUNTING DIARY.

1829.

July. Caught two otters in a brook near Whittingham. We brought them home alive and turned the dog otter out. It was young, about 14 lbs. weight. We did not mean to kill the bitch, but unfortunately we swam her too long in the Calder and she died the same night. She weighed 16½ lbs. Her skull is marked No. "1."

August. On Harwood Fair day we took the young dog otter again in Sabden Brook, and after baiting him a little with the terriers, we turned him out in Hodder.

September. We found an otter in a rock just above Hodder Place and on the same side of the river. We worked to get him out for some time, but as it was getting dark we left him.

October 1st. Had an excellent trail from Hacking Boat to Barrow Brook, but could not find owing to the quantity of drains.

October 2nd. Trailed the same otter we had hunted the preceding day down Little Ribble and found him at Titty Wheel just opposite Hodder Place. We swam him a very short time, and then took him on to the field and worried him. He found the hounds some hard work. The day after he was killed. This otter weighed 25½ lbs. His skull is marked No. "2."

1830.

March 23rd. Had an excellent double trail from Whalley to Hacking and found a fine otter just below Ree Deep on this side the water. We found him a few times and left him. The water was quite a flood.

March 27th. Took the trail of an otter at Hacking and found him at a root beneath Waddow Call. Venture and the otter came from under the root fast hold of each other and went over head together. We swam him for above two hours in a strong, black water. We caught

him just below *Eastford Bridge. Let the hounds fight him into the water again and called off. This otter seemed to be one or two-and-twenty pounds weight.

We shot poor Bowler when we got him for worrying sheep.

April 5th. Trailed an otter from below Doeuford Bridge to Whitewell Rock and thought we holed it in a drain opposite Stakes. A double trail.

April 14th. Threw off at Doeuford Bridge, had an excellent trail in Loud and Hodder but could not find.

May 1st. Went up Little Ribble to Pathorne Bridge without a touch of a trail.

May 4th. Had an excellent trail from Hacking Boat to Sunderland Hall, found an otter under a root at the top of the deep and caught it alive after a swim of three hours and a half. This was a bitch otter, 16½ lbs. weight. We burned a hole through the web of its near hind foot and turned it out again.

May 24th. Hunted two otters in the Wyre, but did not find. The waters rose the next day, so we gave it up.

July 23rd. Threw off at the New Bridge going to Preston. Struck a trail all at once just below Elston Ford, and found him immediately. Briton hit him abroad in very pretty style. After swimming him well for above four hours, we called off. The water was quite too high for us.

July 30th. Threw off at Ribchester Bridge; had a hot double trail about Showley Brook Foot, and thought we found an otter under a root, but could make nothing at all of it. We tried down for about two miles without a touch, when we began to have a cold hunt, and shortly got on to a red-hot trail, and found under a root below Lower Hall. We had a beautiful swim of nearly five hours, when he crawled under a root. The hounds soon seized him, but we got them off almost immediately, and sacked him. He lived till the morning following, but no longer. He died in the cellar. He weighed 23 lbs. Skull No. "3."

*"Eastford" is the local pronunciation of the same now spelt "Eddisford."

August. Took the hounds to Scotland. Remained three weeks and never could pretend to kill an otter the whole time; there was a flood every second or third day.

September 30th. Threw off at Mitton Bridge, and trailed an otter to the old root at Titty Wheel. Swimmer found it. I saw her go abroad. We lost her for a considerable time. At last Ringwood hit her up into the wood, where all the hounds hunted her for above half-an-hour, just like a hare. She came into the water once for about ten minutes, and took the wood again, when Ringwood, Swimmer and Crouner lamed her. We sacked her, and finding she could not live, we turned her out in the ease, and worried her with the terriers and whelps. There was a large party from Stonyhurst present. This was a bitch otter and weighed 15½ lbs. Skull No. "4." There were two cubs killed by a cur dog down below Ribchester the same day.

October 11th. I sent Frank and Duckworth to Bentham with eight hounds. They caught an otter in Greta the second day, and brought it home that night. It was a little otter, weighing about sixteen pounds. We cut the web of its near hind foot, and turned it into the Calder immediately. The day but one after, we found it at Old Martholme, and swam it for about half-an-hour with a few hounds, and left it.

1831.

February 15th. Pancake Tuesday. Had an excellent double trail from Ree Deep to Sale Wheel. Rockwood, Crafty and Crouner found a fine otter just below the turn at Sale Wheel. Rockwood gave him a shake as he went into the water. After finding him once or twice, we called off. The water was high and cold.

March 19th. Trailed an otter from below Whalley to Moyser Wood. He leaped right over the hounds at the old Root. We plagued him for about two hours, and called off. He was once as high as the old Factory, and once quite below the bridge.

April 5th. Easter Tuesday. Took a trail at Tom Brook and found him at Jackson Bank. After swimming him awhile, he took up to Stubbins Deep just above. After we had swam him there for about two

hours and a half, he crept into a rabbit hole, where we caught him and took him home alive. We turned him out in Hyndburn the next day and let the whelps fight him down to the meeting's hole, where we left him. This otter had a very brown head, and weighed exactly twenty-one pounds.

April 12th. Went from Shawe Hall to Eccleston Bridge, whence we trailed an otter to near Gillibrand Hall. He lay in a short drain. After getting him out, he afforded us about an hour's sport before the hounds seized him in the stream and worried him. He weighed 22½ lbs. Mr. Maxwell had his skull and skin.

April 21st. Having sent the hounds to Ilkley the day but one before, we threw off about a mile and a half below, and had a hunt to near Addingham. The otter sealed both ways, having got by the trail. We tried back and had a cold trail to Burley Dam. Hence we had a red-hot hunt to Pool Dam, two miles below Otley, where we swam him in beautiful style from two o'clock to half-past six. The otter was quite dead beat, but the water rose upon us from the Mills, and we did not kill him. This was an excellent day's sport, and numbers of gentlemen were out.

We should have met at Bolton Bridge the day but one after, but, finding there were no otters in that quarter, we returned home.

April 26th. Tried from St. Michael's on the Wyre to within four miles of Lancaster without a touch. Sent the hounds forward to Mr. Bradshaw's, whence we trailed an otter the day after to Hornby Bridge in the Lune. Rookwood found him just below the bridge. We baited him in the hole awhile, and immediately we got the hounds back, he bolted. After a swim of about ten minutes, the hounds seized him in the stream and worried him gallantly. He weighed 25½ lbs. when we got him to Clayton Hall the day after. His skull is No. "5."

May 14th. Trailed an otter from Hacking Boat to Stone Hole. After she had swum a very short time, she got under a rock-hold, where we could not have got her out without a good deal of trouble. So we left her.

May 19th. Threw off at the New Bridge near Preston, but did not find till we came to the Hough-deep above Ribchester Bridge. Ringwood

and Crafty struck her aboard beautifully. We had not trailed this otter a yard. We swam her for above four hours, but the wind was so very high we could not manage her. I came with Mr. Farington from Shaw Hall that morning.

May 24th. Went up Hodder to Stakes Hall, crossed over Longridge Fell, and tried down to Showley Wood, without a hunt.

May 26th. Threw off at Hacking Boat, touched of a cold trail at Sale Wheel, went round to avoid Ribchester, and came to the river at Sunderland Hall. After a very cold trail and very little of it (it was a hot day and nearly noon), we found an otter at the deep above the boat, near Blizzar Rocks. It was a bitch, and afforded us some capital sport for about five hours. She got into one or two fast holds. At last we took her in a dry root, untouched by the hounds. We brought her home, and had a very good swim with her the next day in the Meeting's Hole in Calder with the whelps, and then called off. I believe she died.

June 4th. Went to try for an otter, which they sent word was seen at Henthorn between twelve and one o'clock the night before, but it was "no go." However, we came back to Hodder Foot, and had an excellent trail to the wood above Hodder Place. Some of the hounds hunted him abroad, and the rest hit him right up the wood, where we thought he was running before them. After they had hunted in the wood for above half-an-hour, they came down to the water exactly at the same spot where they had hit him abroad before. They hunted the water off him all the way to Hacking Boat, but he had got down into Great Ribble, and it was now quite late, so we called off.

June 8th. Met at Ribchester Bridge. Had an excellent trail from below Alston Hall to a small brook above the Stone Hole. It was very hot up the brook, a long way off the water, but we could not find him. The hounds offered to mark in a broken drain quite above the wood, but we could make nothing of it.

June 14th. Met at Mitton Bridge and tried down to Tom Brook without a chirp. Mr. Molyneux and J. Toulson sent for a chaise. Their horses were at Ribchester Bridge.

July 18th. Went to Bentham. Had an excellent trail in Hyndburn the same evening with a few hounds, but did not find. Went straight down Wenning the next morning, and up Lune about a mile below Kirkby Bridge (we had had a cold hunt up the Lune), we came to the morning's trail and had an excellent hunt to where the Rawthey runs into the Lune, not far from Sedburgh. I believe the otter was at the deep where the waters join but it was so very wet, and so very late, we were obliged to come away and leave it. The hounds remained all night at Up Hall.

We intended to try Hyndburn the next day, but the water came down quite a flood, and we never had another chance.

August 1st. Met at Doeford Bridge very early, and had an excellent double trail to a drain on the opposite side to Lily Holme, but, suspecting she was a bitch with young, we went down the river back, and had another beautiful trail into Great Ribble from a rough scarry spot between the Paper Mill and Bashall Lodge. It was so late and so hot we could make nothing of it in Great Ribble.

August 14th. The hounds set off for Scotland with Duckworth and little Jim. We caught an otter just opposite the Hollows Mill, and let it go again to have a little more diversion, when it completely beat us amongst the rocks below the Hollows Bridge. The water was in very fair order, but rose the next day, and was never to call low again whilst we remained in Scotland. We were absent from home exactly three weeks. We one day trailed an otter from about Sprinkell to Kirtletown and back—a double trail. We found about a mile up the water from Sprinkell in a strong rock-hold. After a good deal of work we got her out and worried her in very sharp style with four couple of hounds. She weighed 16 lbs. Her skull No. "6."

We killed a young otter in Liddell the day before we left, and should have killed the old one up above Liddell bank, but the water rose upon us.

September 16th. Tried Hodder for the Stonyhurst Gentlemen. Had no trail till we reached Doeford Bridge, where some few of the hounds struck a trail up Loud. We had a beautiful hunt to the rock-hold at Whitewell with the rest. Thence we trailed another otter to a rock not

far from Newton, where we had lunched. Four gentlemen from Stonyhurst remained till the last. They got home by about half-past eight, and we between ten and eleven.

October 18th. Threw off at Doeford Bridge, had an excellent trail immediately, and found an old bitch otter and two cubs at a root a little above Stakes Hall, on the opposite side of the river. We caught one of the young ones about the size of a puppy, about a month old, and turning it into the hole, again called off, and had a very good hunt to the drain above Whitewell, but did not find.

November 30th. Went to Hacking Boat for a walk, and had a trail all the way from there to Stakes, and about a mile up Loud. We found two young otters at the deep below Stakes. We brought the bitch home and, after keeping it two days, sent it back again. It weighed about six pounds. We bored a hole through the rear web of its off hind foot, and called it Nancy. We thought it might be eleven or twelve weeks old.

Caught - - 18.

Swam - - 11.

1832.

January 9th. Had a cold trail from Hacking Boat to the Higher Bridge. Here we took the road to Doeford Bridge with five couple of hounds, where all was hunting and otters' feet. Rockwood found an otter about a quarter of a mile below the rock-hold on the Whitewell side of the river under a root. We put him abroad, but having only one dog (the other hounds were trailing forward), he beat us into the rock-hold. The water was very cold.

February 11th. Had an excellent trail from Ribchester down to Dobbin Wood (a little above Blizzar Rocks), where we found two otters in a sort of drain in a meadow at the far side of the river. We put them abroad, and after finding them a few times, we called off.

February 14th. Went down Great Ribble, and had no hunt till we reached the boat-hole above Blizzar Rocks. Hence we had a capital trail to a strong-hold below Tom Brook where we put an otter abroad.

After being found at the calling once or twice, he returned to the hold and we could never get him out again. We had a very pretty trail as far as the New Bridge afterwards, where we stopped the hounds and came home.

February 27th. Frank and Duckworth took five couple of hounds to Bentham, the water being very low, to try to bring a "storer," but did not succeed. They had a good trail in Greta, and sealed a very fine one in Hyndburn, but the otters were in Lune.

March 27th. Threw off at Doeford Bridge. After a good deal of puzzling work between Stakes and below Bolton Roughts, we found four otters in a drain above Lily Holme in a meadow at the opposite side of the water. We first caught a young one, which seemed to be from ten to twelve pounds weight, which we sacked. We next took the old bitch, and turned her into the higher end of the drain. (We had made several holes into the drain, and had seen four otters pass, and wished to have some sport with the largest.) After a good deal of work, his honour made his appearance and bolted into Hodder. We uncoupled the hounds, and in a very short time Andrew tailed him. We held him a while, and tried to get the hounds away, that we might put him into a sack, but the hounds came so close upon us that we were obliged to let him go into the water again, or they would have worried him, which we did not wish to do. After gaining his liberty, the old boy took to the woods and fairly beat the hounds into the rock-hold at Whitewell (nearly a mile off), whether they would or would not, though they were close upon him. This otter felt as if he weighed five or six-and-twenty pounds. We might have killed all four otters with the hounds had we chosen. My brother John and Mr. Toulson were at this day's sport.

April 3rd. Threw off opposite Alston Hall. Had a trail to Tom Brook, and a long way up it. Finding the otter was gone up and not down the river, we turned back, and Lincoln found a fine bitch otter (so we supposed) under a strong plane tree root at Jackson Bank. We swam her for four hours. She was so done at last, that we coupled up most of the hounds for fear of worrying her. We might have killed her very easily, but we called off, after having had some excellent afternoon's diversion.

April 12th. Tried up Little Ribble to Settle. No trail at all. Crossed over to Up Hall, where we stayed all night. Tried Lune the next morning. Trailed an otter the wrong way to Hornby Bridge; turned back up to above Kirkby Bridge, and finished the morning's trail as far as where the Rawthey joins the Lune, but did not find. It was all one otter. Returned to Lower Bentham the same night, and home the day after, it being the end of the week.

April 24th. Went with the hounds to Disley, thirteen miles beyond Manchester, but returned the day after without even a hunt, on account of the rain.

May 2nd. Threw off at Eccleston Call, and had a trail to the bridge above Gillibrand, but could not find. The water was quite high, owing to some thunderstorms the evening before. The next day we breakfasted with M. H. Tempest at Croston, and tried the Douglas up to Wrightington, without a hunt. From there we crossed the country to the Yarrow, and hunted an otter from a little below Duxbury Hall to Eccleston Call, but did not find. It was late in the evening.

May 5th. Went to Harwood Bridge. Found an otter the next morning at the dam above the bridge with Old Lofty, before breakfast. We swam it eight hours, but did not kill. The water was strong and the day rather windy. A great number of gentlemen were out and were highly pleased with the hounds, which did their work well. We at one time had the otter in a dry hold, and had sent for a sack and were sure of catching it, when it broke through the stones, which were not wedged sufficiently tight, to a hole that it had entered under water.

May 9th. Hunted the same otter about three miles down the river, where we trailed straight to it, and Swimmer found it. It was a cold day. We swam it four hours, when we called the hounds off to give them some bread and ourselves some luncheon. After about an hour's rest, we recovered the otter about half-a-mile below where we had been swimming it, and had it quite dead beat under Wood Hall, when Mr. Fenton Scott came out in a great fury and threatened to shoot the hounds, etc. We called off and returned to Harwood Bridge, not a little put out of the way.

May 11th. Got a very early breakfast at Stockheld and threw off at eight o'clock at Walsford Bridge (over the Nidd). We found an otter (Old Ringwood and Lofty found this otter too) immediately above the bridge. We swam it four hours, when everybody began to tire and thought it could not be killed. However, shortly after, it stole down the river, and after swimming it about an hour below the bridge in good style, it took up a gutter, and the hounds worried it to the great pleasure and satisfaction of a number of sportsmen. It weighed twenty-one pounds. Mr. J. Maxwell got the skull and skin.

May 15th. Trailed an otter from Walsford Bridge to about opposite Nidd Hall, where we could have easily found him, but thought it was useless on account of the length of the deep and number of rocks. The trail was very pretty from Knaresborough.

May 16th. Trailed an otter from Harwood Bridge to a dam below Pool Dam, where we found it in a drain, caught it alive, and turned it into the Calder at Cock Bridge the same night. It was a very fine bitch otter. It very nearly murdered poor little Pincher in the drain, though he behaved gallantly.

May 18th. Trailed the same otter with Rockwood and Crowner from Whalley to the very spot where we turned it out two days before.

May 22nd. Took a few hounds to Doeford Bridge; had a cold trail to Whitewell; returned to Doeford Bridge, and found an otter at the lower end of Bolton Roughts, amongst some loose rocks on the Browneholme side of the Hodder. It was a very pretty find. Lincoln viewed it in the wood, and brought it over the bare rock into the river. We swam it about three quarters of an hour, when Andrew tailed it. It was the same young bitch otter he had caught and marked on the 30th of November last, and now weighed twelve pounds. We brought it home and turned it out again in Hodder the next day, together with little Randy, which weighed between seven and eight pounds.

May 25th. Having sent the hounds to the Five Barred Gate the evening before, we threw off at the New Bridge, and had a short but beautiful trail to some calling below Tom Brook, where we found an

otter at nine o'clock. After swimming it between there and the New Bridge till half-past six in the evening, we called off. We never could see this otter vent the whole of the time on account of the breeze; or we could easily have caught it in the lower deep. The water was very low, and the hounds worked like heroes.

June 7th. The hounds having arrived at Park House the night before, we tried Esk and found an otter in the old level going to the Forge. After saving him from the hounds in the level with some difficulty, we swam him for a short time and killed him immediately below the Bridge, to the great delight of all the old women and children of the neighbourhood. He weighed twenty-four pounds.

June 8th. We found an otter below the Byreburn levels, but could make nothing of it, as the water had risen considerably during the morning.

June 9th. Trailed an otter from above Penton Bridge to Castleton in the Liddle, finding we had hunted him to heel. We returned and Lincoln found him under a rock at Penton. The hounds seized and worried him before he could get abroad. We were not sorry as the water was black and heavy. We had not let the hounds try Penton in the morning. This otter weighed twenty-three pounds.

June 11th. Having sent the hounds to disturb the lower end of the river the evening before, we threw off at Line Bridge beyond Longtown, and found a bitch otter at some rocks above Breakerton, or some such name. The water was so very high we swam it about half-an-hour, and calling off, tried higher up for another. We found one in a rock-hold about half-a-mile above. Teerum fought it face to face for three hours, when at length it bolted. We swam it for two hours, and killed it among the rocks where we had found the bitch the same morning. We lost Teerum in the rock-hold above. This otter weighed nineteen pounds—a dog.

June 15th. Took a trail of an otter from a Mill a little above Cliff Bridge in the Line, and found him at a loose root about one hundred and fifty yards below where we lost Teerum. After we had swam the otter

a short time, Teerum was seen amongst the hounds very much punished and almost starved to death. We had sent after him every day, but to no purpose. We swam this otter, which was a very fine one, for three hours, and lost him in the Call (which was all hollow) at Breakerton Mill. The water was very black and heavy.

June 30th. Threw off at Mitton Bridge and trailed an otter from the Paper Mill to a drain which goes under the road just above Stakes Hall, and at the same side of the river. We could not get it out.

July 6th. Went with Frank and about nine hounds to Hacking Boat late in the morning, and thought we would try a little down Great Ribble by way of exploring. We had a very cold trail indeed, all the way to Blizzar Rocks, where we found a fine dog otter just at the turn of the river above Lower Hall, not having trailed him twenty yards. We swam him quite down in about three hours and would not catch him, as we were expecting to hunt there the next week by appointment.

July 13th. Mr. Hopwood and his sons, with my father, breakfasted with us at the Five Barred Gate. We should have had a large field out, but it had rained all night and was a wet morning. We threw off at Lower Hall and found a bitch otter directly opposite to it which we swam for three hours and a half. We let it go up the river into a root, quite exhausted, but the water rose almost immediately to such a height that we could not manage it, at least without very great difficulty, so we called off, having had excellent sport. The water was black and heavy when we started.

July 23rd. Threw off at Osbaldiston Hall, Aldeston, and went down Ribble. We found an otter at Jackson Banks, after trailing her about a quarter of a mile. We had been swimming her about two hours and had often seen her, when old Swimmer caught a young otter about seven pounds weight under a root. Frank luckily was near, got it by the tail, and threw it into the deep. We immediately got the hounds off and came home.

August 1st. Having sent the hounds to Harewood House the day but one before, we threw off at Harewood Bridge and trailed an otter

(which they had hunted the day before at Lord Harewood's fish-pond) down to a deep about a mile above Mr. F. Scott's. The hound (Swimmer) found and went abroad with him, and after a swim of about twenty minutes, we entirely lost him. Some of the hounds would fain have marked him in some calling, but could not quite do so. We thought he must have got into some curious hold under the rotten willow banks. Many ladies were out this day.

August 2nd. Threw off at about a mile above Harewood Bridge, and had an excellent find at Worthington Deep, a short way above. We swam him in first-rate style for three hours and forty minutes, at last he took up a shallow stream before the hounds and sought refuge amongst a few bushes at the side where the hounds seized him. We dragged him down into the water, and worried him gallantly, amid the shouts, the splashings, and whoops of an excellent field of sportsmen, composed chiefly of the gentlemen of the neighbourhood. Lord Harewood (a boy catching hold of his coat tail) in his sixty-fifth year, rushed into the water up to his knees and was quite in his glory. His sons, Henry and William, Mr. Fawkes, (Mr. Douglas and Mr. Balfour of the Guards), Frank Hopwood, etc., were present.

August 9th. The hounds set off for Terregles.

August 16th. Threw off below Friar's Scars, in the Nith, and caught a young dog otter about thirteen pounds weight, about a mile and a half above Blackwood, where we lunched.

August 18th. Caught four otters in a drain by the Cargan. Swam the old bitch for three hours in the pond at Terregles, and worried her. Sent the other three into Great Ribble; one died by the road. The bitch otter was stuffed for W. Maxwell.

August 21st. Breakfasted at Mrs. Cricton's, Friar's Scars. Trailed an otter to the same root near an island, where we found the young dog otter. Had a beautiful find with a rally through the wood; swam him in beautiful style for three hours and killed him. Joseph Maxwell tailed him. The water was black and heavy. This otter weighed twenty-eight pounds good, so they said. Joseph Maxwell got his skull and skin.

August 24th. Found a bitch otter at a mill dam a good way up the Cairn, and killed her at half-past seven o'clock in the afternoon, having trailed her the wrong way for several miles. All the gentlemen had left except P. Maxwell.

August 28th. Took Briton, Ringwood and Rover to try the Cairn. Found an otter without having hunted him a yard, just opposite Lincluden Abbey. It left the water and took into Mr. Young's garden of Young Field, where after some blowing work and many a view, I caught him by the tail and we sacked him. There was a young otter at the river, besides the old one, but it had got safe into a very strong drain. We swam it the next day, when the hounds worried it instantly. C. Clifford got its skin.

August 31st. Breakfasted with General Sharpe, and threw off a little below Mount Annan. Found an otter at a rock-hold, just below Hoddam Bridge, without any trail previous. We swam her for seven hours and killed her in good style. P. Maxwell and myself were the only ones who stayed till the finish, and returned in great glee through Dumfries. This was a bitch otter, the toughest I ever had to do with. She weighed about seventeen pounds. Henry Maxwell has the skin.

September 5th. Breakfasted at Mr. Copeland's, of Blackwood. Were met at the bridge by the Duke of Buccleuch. Had a beautiful trail to the rocks at Drumlanrig, where we were obliged to call off, owing to the roughness of the stream. Went a mile or two above, tried again to within three miles of Sanquhar, but did not find. P. Maxwell and myself, with the hounds and the men, stayed all night at Drumlanrig.

September 6th. Threw off at the bridge, close to the Duke's dog kennels, and, after a beautiful hunt, found an otter in a drain about a quarter of a mile from the Nith, just opposite the castle. We sacked it, and turned it out where the Duchess could best see the sport. It would not keep the water, and was very soon killed. I gave the otter (which was a bitch) to one of Mr. Henry Lascelles' little boys. We lunched and walked back to Terregles.

September 8th. After some delightful trailing in the Cargan for several hours, with mostly young hounds, we found a couple of otters

under a rock just above the Glen Mills. The hounds worried the bitch, but we immediately coupled them up, and gave the dog otter a quarter of an hour's law. After we had hunted it a short time, we came to fault and could not mark it off. We sent to Terregles for half-a-dozen fresh hounds. We recovered the otter in some whins, and, after a famous rally through the wood for a good deal of two hours, we at length killed him a good way up the brook. He weighed about fifteen pounds. William Maxwell has the skin and skull, and Marmaduke the skin of the bitch.

September 12th. Met the Duke of Buccleuch, Mr. H. Lascelles, Mr. Cust, etc., at the Lodge, leading to Friar's Scars. We had a beautiful red-hot trail to the wood by the island, where we had found the other two dog otters. Rockwood put him abroad. We swam him for two hours and a half, and worried him upon a gravel bed, about half-a-mile above Blackwood. He fought tremendously, and weighed about twenty-eight pounds. The Duke has the skull and skin.

September 15th. Breakfasted at General Sharpe's. Tried the Annan up to Loch Maben, but did not find, in fact had nothing but a cold trail of an otter which was gone down towards Annan, where we did not wish to go.

September 29th. Breakfasted at the Five Barred Gate at eight o'clock. Had a cold trail to Stubbins Deep, where we found a fine dog-otter in the wood. We swam him about an hour, and killed him. He took the wood very early, where he was severely shaken. After the hounds had worried him, he sank to the bottom. Pater swam in, found him, and swam across Ribble with him. He weighed nearly twenty-six pounds. Mr. Farrington was at this hunt.

October 24th. Went up Hodder to try Diamond with a few hounds. Caught a young bitch otter about eight pounds weight, at a rock-hold at the Paper Mill. We turned it into a drain and called off.

1833.

January 31st. Found an otter at Mab Wheel in Hodder, but was obliged to call off, being engaged to dine out.

February 6th. Trailed an otter from Hodder Foot to Kemp Stone in Little Ribble, swam him about an hour and a half and called off, after getting him into the open water, for fear of killing him, which we could have accomplished very easily, though the water was very black and heavy.

February 26th. Threw off at Bolton Roughs, and thought we found an otter in a rock-hold just above the noted hole at Whitewell, but the rain came on so heavy, we were driven off.

March 7th. Threw off at Jackson's Banks ; had a cold trail to Hodder Foot, whence we had an excellent trail to above Stakes, but it had got so late, we called off. The hounds were very wild.

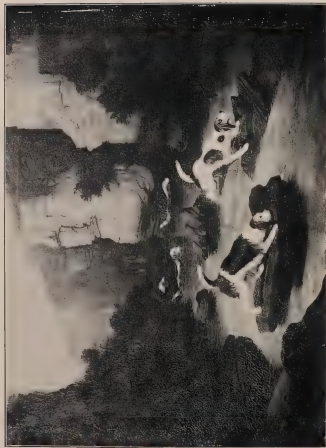
March 11th. Had a trail from Hacking Boat all the way to the New Bridge over Ribble, going to Preston, where we found and caught a young bitch otter about nine pounds in weight. It was not the otter we had hunted. We found it in a broken drain close to the bridge, on the far side of the river. Frank turned the otter out below Chew Mill the same night.

March 18th. Threw off at Mitton Bridge, whence we had a trail down Little Ribble and up Hodder to Mab Wheel, where Rockwood put an otter abroad, the rest of the hounds hunting forward to above Stakes. We got them back, and swam the otter an hour and a half, when we called off for fear of killing him. He seemed a very fine dog otter. We could have caught him easily in about half-an-hour. It was a very cold day.

March 18th to 30th. Had several excellent trails in Calder, Little Ribble, and Hodder, but did not find.

April 9th. Threw off at Elston, and found an otter immediately at a root just below. We swam her nearly two hours, when we called off for fear of killing her, as she was dead beat. She was once in the drain which runs up the meadow below, but she beat two of the terriers out, and took the deep again.

April 16th. Tried the Yarrow, and had an excellent trail from Croston Call up the Lid Brook to Park Hall, Mr. German's, where there is a large sheet of water, but did not find. The rivers were quite up.



J. M. W. Turner, 1832.

TWO OF THE HOUNDS, 1832.

April 18th. Frank and Duckworth set off for Kenilworth with the hounds.

April 23rd. Took out half-a-dozen hounds to reconnoitre, and finding an otter in the river Low, close to Stoneleigh village and mill, we sent for the rest of the pack, letting several neighbouring gentlemen know at the same time. When we had swum him several hours in a rooty piece of by-water, he beat us across an open meadow into the main water above the mill, unseen by anyone. Here he contrived to get into a drain under water, beneath the turnpike road, into which Rockwood hit him after the sluice was lowered. Here we expected an immediate worry, but through the pressing of the crowd, he slipped us into the river again, when, after a beautiful swim of about an hour and a half, old Ringwood seized him, and bore him gallantly to land, where we worried him in grand style, just before it was dark. This otter weighed twenty-five pounds, and was stuffed at Leamington for Mr. Clifford. We swam him eight hours and a half.

April 25th. Met at Cloud Bridge, on the Avon, just above Stoneleigh Abbey. Had a beautiful double trail about the Park, and found under a tremendous oak-tree nearly opposite the house. We coupled the hounds up, and, whilst we were digging, it had stolen abroad. After rather an uninteresting swim for nearly two hours, we lost him for a considerable time. We tried below, and, Lincoln and Rockwood swimming under a hollow old oak, roared loudly "he was there!" Rockwood put his head out of a round hole a good way up the tree as if looking for him, and had scarcely withdrawn his head when out came the old rogue at the very same hole, and with the sun shining on his sleek coat, leapt into the brook, amid shouts of delight from all present, most of whom had a fair view of him. After a beautiful and animated swim for nearly an hour, I had the luck to catch him by the "pother" (just below Sir Thomas Biddulph's) and bore him to the shore. We dragged hounds and otter and all (for they had seized hold of him before I could get him out of the water) on to the field above, and making a ring, had a glorious conflict. There were only about nine hounds to fight him, as we had left four couple at Stoneleigh Abbey, expecting a long swim. They arrived just before he was dead, and soon finished him. I was very

sorry for some of the hounds, for they were actually covered with blood. We weighed him at the front of Stonclough Abbey (where we lunched) and his weight was exactly thirty pounds. "Who-oop for the king of the Avon!"

April 29th. Met at Cloud Bridge. Had no trail till we reached Bagenhall Mill. About a quarter of a mile above we found a bitch otter and two young ones (Jockey and Jenny). After we had caught the young ones and swam the bitch above an hour, she went under a root a little off the water, where we could have killed her immediately, but having sent off for the rest of the hounds, we called off that she might rest, and the whole pack have the benefit of a worry. In about an hour the hounds arrived. We bolted her with the terriers, and after swimming her beautifully with the whole pack for about an hour, they seized her under a root and worried her in the middle of the river, to the astonishment and delight of nearly a thousand spectators. She weighed about fifteen pounds. Mr. H. Clifford has her skin.

May 1st. Breakfasted with Mr. Roberts at Wolston, intending to try the Avon, but finding no trail, we returned post-haste to Baggington, knowing there was a hunt in the Low. We had her abroad in the large deep in front of Mr. Leigh's, but soon lost her, we supposed in a drain which went under the house. It was a cold, disagreeable day.

May 2nd. Andrew and Frank took three hounds, and found the otter we had lost the day before, just above where the Low joins the Avon. We went with the rest of the hounds, and arrived at the scene of action at four o'clock in the afternoon. We swam her till ten o'clock at night (two hours by moonlight), expecting to kill her every moment, and were obliged to give up to her at last, though the hounds were not at all done. The next day they could not touch of it anywhere.

May 6th. Had a beautiful trail above Bidford (seven miles below Stratford), but could not find.

May 8th. Went from Mr. Moore's at Shotton, to Sir Charles Thockmorton's, to an early breakfast. Tried the Arrow, without success. Crossed to Sir Edward Smith's (Wooton), on the Alne; had an excellent

trail about the pond and about three miles up the river, where Finder and Bowler made a capital hit across a meadow (just as we were turning back) and found him in a hollow willow tree. Frank tailed him in about half-an-hour, and we killed him with nine hounds in about eight minutes. Weight, twenty-six pounds. Sir Charles sent him to London to be stuffed.

May 10th. Found at Teddington above Stratford, but could not kill.

May 14th. Found an otter at Wolsley Bridge, on the Avon, swam him several hours, but could not kill him.

| | | | |
|--------------------|---|---|------------------------|
| Worried | - | - | 30 |
| Could have worried | | | 30 more. |
| Found | - | - | 28, swam most of them. |

May 23rd. Met at the Five Barred Gate, and, throwing off at the New Bridge, found a couple of otters at Blizzar Rocks. After a short but pretty swim, the hounds had one at bay under a root, and would soon have killed it, but I luckily happened to be close to and saved it. It seemed about eight or nine pounds weight. We called off for fear of doing mischief, and tried up to Hacking Boat, but did not find again.

May 28th. Had a beautiful trail from Hacking Boat to Elston Deep, where we found an otter in a very cunning place, just above the favourite drain in the meadow. We swam him nearly four hours, and after a good deal of difficulty (for it was windy and cold), Frank caught him beside a root, and held him by the tail in the water till we coupled up the hounds. He gave me hold of him, and I lifted him up, he seemed about twenty-four pounds. Frank took him again, and letting him steal away, we came off. He was dead beat.

June 8th. Threw off at the New Bridge near Preston, had a beautiful red-hot trail nearly to Walton, and found an otter about half-way between Walton and the Wooden Bridge. After a short swim we entirely lost it. The hounds could always hunt the water near to a root where a large ash tree had fallen, but could never mark it. It was a windy, unpleasant

day. Miss Becker, Mr. Garnett, etc., were out. We tried up to Ribchester, but no find.

June 15th. Tried Hodder Foot and again at the Higher Bridge. No hunt. Went on to Doeford Bridge. Had a cold touch here and there till we reached the drain above Lily Holme. We were not certain whether the otter was in or not, the terriers being drowned out by the water. We had a beautiful trail to a bridge at Slaidburn town end, where he had gone from. The only time we could seal him was once above Newton. He was a very fine otter. We lunched at the Rectory and walked home. I had no pony.

June 24th. Trailed an otter from Hodder Foot to a root just above the river Loud. Swam him about ten minutes. The water came down fresh and we could make nothing more of him.

June 28th. Had a hot but short trail about Kemp Stone in Little Ribble. The hounds kept hunting it in the deep, but we could never make anything of it. A strong, black water.

July 12th. Thursday. Preston Races. Threw off above the New Bridge, and had a beautiful trail down Ribble, and up the Darwen to a deep just above Bannister Hall Printing Works, where we found a fine otter and swam him for four hours, when we entirely lost him. It was a very awkward deep, and we supposed he got among the works. Dined with Mr. Sharrock, and the hounds got home at two o'clock in the morning. J. Aspinall, W. H. Hornby, Captain Smith, William Yates, Silvester, etc., were out.

July 24th, 25th, 26th. Beaten in Calder. Could not find. Hunted a dog and a bitch. Beaten several times before.

July 30th. Breakfasted at the Five Barred Gate by myself. Had a cold trail to Tom Brook. Just above, the hounds hit upon a red-hot scent right up the wood. They came back to the river, and, directly after, took him right over the fields into the same wood. They then hunted him out of that wood over some fields into Tom Brook, up there about half-a-mile, out into the fields again, from one pit to another, and back again into Tom Brook. Soon after, the hounds hit him into the

first wood; Rockwood found the otter and stayed behind, marking him. We went to the spot with Briton and the terriers. I gave a jump, and out she came (a fine bitch) through the wood like a dart, and into the water. We swam her six hours and called off the hounds, the otter having had quite enough. She showed great cunning amongst the calling.

August 6th. Having sent the hounds to Halton, we threw off below the aqueduct across the Lune (the drains thereabouts having been disturbed the night before). We immediately hit upon a trail, and hunted him with seven couple of hounds to a little above the bridge over the Lune, near Hornby. We tried up to Arkholme, and finding no trail we tried back with caution, and found he had stolen abroad at a strong stream as the hounds went up, and the hounds never could hunt him properly in the water till we got to the old deep below the bridge. Here they (London, Dashwood, etc.) swam him fairly up to the bridge, but could mark him no further, although they hit him up a wet gutter, immediately above the bridge, on the Hornby side of the water, and hunted him into a wet drain which went entirely through a large meadow. The hounds could get through the drain. Crouner and Plunder were very much punished. When we got the hounds out we put Rocky in at the top, and he drove his lordship out in gallant style. When he had got to Lune we uncoupled, and a beautiful crash we had with the otter scarcely a yard before them, till he stopped in the deep above the mouth of the Wenning in the Lune. Then he kept us going incessantly for three hours, when he was so completely exhausted that the hounds worried him, partly in water and partly out, before we could get him up on to the bank. He weighed nineteen pounds, and was taken to Hopwood to be stuffed. Captain Hopwood, Mr. Edward Townley (from Oversands), Charles Clifford, Captain Winnyard, etc., besides old Bob, from Hopwood, were of the party, and were delighted exceedingly. In one part of the trail (which was a magnificent one), old Lofty hit him beautifully through Hafton Wood, where he had taken the land for about a mile, and where the chorus was sublime.

August 9th. The hounds set off for Harewood House.

August 13th. Threw off at Harewood Bridge and found an otter

at Arthington Deep, which we swam six hours and twenty minutes, and killed in capital style a little above the deep, in exactly the same place we killed one the year before. This was a bitch otter and weighed sixteen and a quarter pounds. We tried up to Burley Dam the next day, and, seeing no symptoms of another otter, we came off home the day after that. The otter we killed went to be stuffed for Mr. Henry Lascelles's boys.

August 19th. The hounds set off for Canobie.

August 23rd. Met the Duke of Buccleuch, Lord Ramsay and Lord Marsham, at Admiral Malcolm's. Had a beautiful trail down the Esk, and found a fine otter amongst the willows at the Scotch Bar. Swam him nearly four hours, but did not kill him, the day being windy, and the water not very low.

August 24th. Had some beautiful hunting about the meeting of the waters, but did not find.

August 26th. Hunted an otter right up the burn to the level.

August 27th. After a deal of puzzling hunting, found him near the top of the Scar at Liddell Foot; swam him a short time, and then hunted him above half-an-hour in the wood, and killed him in style. Nineteen and a half pounds weight.

August 28th. Met at West Linton Bridge on the Line, had a beautiful trail from a little below Cliff Bridge, and found at Brecken Hills Mill. She was a remarkably sharp otter, and made a deal of play amongst the rocks above, to which she cheated us. At length we caught her amongst the rocks and worried her. Fourteen pounds hardly. Teerum and Tartar behaved well.

August 30th. Caught a bitch otter in Liddell, below the Greenock Levels, and brought her to the moat-line, where we swam her with chiefly young hounds for the amusement of the ladies and gentlemen of the neighbourhood. She made some good sport. Weight fourteen-and-a-half pounds.

September 2nd. Trailed an otter from Netherby to the forge, and missed finding her in the old level for want of putting in a good terrier.

September 3rd. Hunted the same otter (the drains being all secured as we thought) into the main drain close to the front of Netherby, through a hole made by the rabbits.

September 4th. Determined to kill her, tried again, and found her at the Willows near the Scotch Bar. Swam her two hours and killed her. John Grant tailed her. We got two hedging knives and cut out a quantity of the low willow branches, which made her leave the deep. Had we done the same when the Duke, etc., were there, we should have killed our otter. We trailed another otter the same morning into the Byreburn Levels; it had come down Liddell.

September 11th. Breakfasted at the Five Barred Gate. Had a very cold trail to Blizzar Rocks, where we found an otter which had come down the river. After swimming him between two or three hours, we entirely lost him. We dug a long while at a root, where we thought he was. He had been there, but was gone. After trying down and up for some time, we lit him through the wood, quite above the boat hole, and Rockwood swam under a root at the deep above the favourite drain in the meadow, and came out holding the otter, amidst loud applause. We first found this otter at ten o'clock, and we killed him at exactly a quarter-past-seven. James caught him by a forefoot, and afterwards by the tail, where he and I and Lincoln, with two or three more hounds were busily at work in the dark, feeling for the old road. We bore him across to the gravel bed at the other side of the river, and worried him in gallant style. He weighed twenty-two pounds. John Aspinall saw the whole, and was much pleased. He has his skull. It was the first death he had witnessed.

September 16th. Met at Mitton Bridge. Tried a short way up Calder, where an otter was up, but thinking there was little chance of getting him abroad on account of the drains, we took up Hodder. We went to the Higher Bridge without a trail and took the road to the top of Bolton Roughs. We had just thrown off the hounds, when they hit upon a fox, which they viewed and pressed so hard that he took the river with the hounds close at his brush. They ran him a short round and brought him over the river again. We got all the hounds off but Bowler,

whom we lost, and who had several bites upon his face the next morning. Reynard had a narrow escape. We tried up the river, and the hounds hit a famous trail up the Loud. We got them back, and trailed a fine dog otter to the drains, where we once caught four. We thought he was in, but we were deceived, for he had gone from there up the Loud. It was too late to go back, so we made a very merry finish at Whitewell, and had races afterwards. John Aspinall, Garnett, Charles Clifford, Junr., and Blakeborough were out, and were highly pleased.

September 20th. Had a beautiful trail of two otters from Martholme up Calder, to a drain a little above the meeting of the Calder and Pendle Water, where we found a fine bitch otter. She had been to the Lodge at Lower House. Old Ringwood was the first to hit her up the drain. After several people leaping once or twice, out she came over the fields into the river. We could make nothing of her for a long while. At length, Wonder found her at a strong root about twenty yards above, where she took to the water. She had not swum ten minutes before the hounds had hold of her. I ducked her overhead and saved her. She stole into another drain, where we worked famously for above five hours before we could get her out. At last Lincoln and Teerum got hold of her in the drain, and I succeeded in tailing her. The drain was five feet deep, and Teerum behaved like a hero. We brought the otter home, and turned her out again at eleven o'clock at night. She was a bitch, and seemed to weigh between fourteen and fifteen pounds.

September 27th. Had a beautiful hunt of a large dog otter about Martholme and Sabden, which had come down Calder, but could not find him.

September 28th. Trailed the same otter up Calder, but called off at Altham Bridge, on account of the Padiham crew. We hunted it back the wrong way, through Mill Wood to a drain just above the Call below Hyndburn Bridge, where I think we had left it the day before.

October 5th. The last fixed day of the season. Met at the Five Barred Gate at eight o'clock. Captain Hopwood, Henry Hornby, Silvester, William Yates, my brother John, etc., were out. We had a beautiful trail to the boat hole, above Blizzar's Rocks, where Vulcan and London

went abroad with a fine bitch otter, the rest of the hounds rattling forward with a famous trail. We got them all together, and swam her in the two deeps above, and at the foot, for four hours and forty minutes, when the hounds caught her in a gutter by the upper deep, and worried her in quick time. This was Thunder's *debut*, and he swam and tried famously. This otter weighed nearly seventeen pounds. She had, unfortunately, two cubs in her. C. Hopwood and William Yates had each a hind foot, and everybody was highly delighted with the day's sport.

| | | |
|-------------------------------|-------|------------|
| Since the commencement caught | | 38 |
| Could have caught | - - | 34 |
| Found and swam | - - - | 32 |
| 1832. Caught | - - | 33 otters. |
| 1833. Caught | - - | 22 otters |
| | | <hr/> |
| In two years - | - | 55 otters. |
| | | <hr/> |

October 12th. Had another trail in Hyndburn and many others after.

December 26th. Frank found an otter at a root, just above where Sewry Barn used to stand, and put it abroad.

December 27th. We hunted the same otter down Calder, and supposed we found it at Ree Deep. However, we found one, which leaped over Thunder into the river. We swam it an hour and a half, and called off at Sale Wheel, after making his honour vent a few times. There was a trail in Calder almost every two or three days.

Caught and could have caught, since I first got the hounds to the present time, seventy-two otters.

1834.

January 30th. Threw off at Hacking Boat, and put an otter abroad at Dum Jordan, the foot of Little Ribble. It bolted directly the terriers went in. We saw it two or three times, then called off. The water was very high. We lost Pincher; he was found drowned just after we left. He was as keen under the root, with his nose off, as any of them.

February 4th. Met at Hacking Boat. The hounds left us up Hodder, with rather a cold trail. When we overtook them, they were swimming an otter at Mab Wheel. Rockwood had found it, according to P. and W. Whittaker, who said it was a beautiful find. We swam this otter above two hours, and never saw it, though it came on to dry land twenty times. We called off at the bottom of Bolton Roughs, leaving him abroad. He had tried to hole all the way down the rocks.

February 15th. A fine mild morning. Threw off at Mitton Bridge a little before twelve o'clock. The hounds went wildly down the river without a hunt. All at once they stopped at a root (a little before they got opposite the Scar near the foot of the river) and put an otter abroad. Rover found him. After a very few minutes, he took refuge in the root at Dum Jordan, where the terriers had a round with him. Viper behaved very well (his first essay). At length his honour, a fine dog otter, came rolling out between Frank and myself. We were keeping the hounds from the hole that he might get clearly into the water. After about half-an-hour, he stole quietly into the drain at Hacking Boat, where he and Teerum and Boxer had it to themselves. The old rogue came out, passing the terriers as far as the hedge, and backed again. We had secured the lower end of the drain and could have caught him with ease, but after he had got a good breathing, we let him take the water, and a beautiful swim he made up to Mitton Wood, venting every few yards, visible to everybody. He seemed so dead beat and the hounds were so near catching him, that we coupled up to save his life. We had scarcely done so, when he took through Mitton Wood and into the Calder, where we just found him once or twice.

February 26th. Had a pretty trail from Whalley Bridge, and found an otter at Ree Deep. Swam it a short time, and called off. Rather windy, and the water high.

March 10th. Had an excellent hunt down the lower end of Calder, and found a fine dog otter at Titty Wheel, beneath Moyser Wood, in Hodder. We swam him awhile, then called off, and recovered him again opposite Winckley. He turned up Little Ribble, and made for the old root at Dum Jordan. The water was very high. We could just wade

it. At last the old rogue took shelter under a root opposite to Mitton Wood, where Loyal marked him. Little Teerum went into him, and Frank made a hole above with his staff, just where the otter happened to be, and got him by the tail. He was on the top of Teerum. We held him by turns by the tail, I should think nearly an hour, with his body in the hole, till a sack was brought. We were rather short of men. We sacked him, took him home, and put him into the otter place till nearly twelve o'clock; then we turned him out close by the dog kennel with Tartar after him. He soon found his way over the fields into Hyndburn, and down Calder. He weighed twenty-six pounds and a half, and seemed a young otter. Bellman offered well this hunt.

March 13th. Threw off at Mitton Bridge. Had a very cold trail to near Waddow. Just above the deep there was a very hot trail of an otter, which had come down the river. We hunted it heel way to Sawley, and tried back, but could never find it. The hounds hunted it very warm up a meadow side above Waddow Deep, where there were some drains. It was a beautiful warm day for the time of year.

March 17th. Started at Mitton Boat. A cold trail in Little Ribble; no trail in Hodder; and a cold trail (the wrong way) to Ribchester Bridge. We crossed over through Showley Wood, to avoid the mob, and came to the river at the island above Sunderland Deep. There was a roaring trail immediately of two otters. We tried down and found a bitch otter (by her ways) at Jackson Banks. After playing her an hour and a half, we called off. The water was tolerably low, but the wind was in the east.

March 20th. Met at Mitton Bridge, hit upon a trail at Hodder Foot, and found at the Stone Hole in Great Ribble (old Lofty found). After a good deal of plagu among the rocks, we succeeded in getting her into Hough Deep, below where we had an excellent swim. She stole up again, and took refuge in between two rocks half-way up the stream, between Stone Hole and Sale Wheel. Little Mustard went into her very gallantly. After she had finished two or three of the terriers and had a shake from one or two hounds, I succeeded in throwing her into the river, and we called off. She seemed a bitch otter about fourteen pounds weight.

We entered Joseph Peel this hunt. It was a fine, sunny day, and the water was a nice height, though the nights were frosty.

March 30th. Had a cold trail, heel way, from the top of Bolton Roughts to near Whitewell. No sport.

April 3rd. Tried from Mitton Bridge to Paythorne Bridge, above Gisburn. No hunt. Joseph Peel out.

April 7th. Threw off at the bottom of Jackson Banks, and found (Rockwood and Rocky) an otter at the deep below, under a strong root. There was a great deal of wreck, which was very troublesome. We swam her six hours and a quarter, but did not catch her. Though quite beat. She had a long rest under a simple root at the open side of the river, and the hounds could hunt the water off her nearly a quarter of a mile below, but could not find her. Charles Whittaker's first hunt.

April 10th. Went from Shaw Hall to Eccleston Bridge, and from thence over Croston Moss to the river Douglas, where we had a double trail to Newborough. We tried down again to below the mouth of the Yarrow, but could not find.

April 11th. As we were coming home, we tried the Darwen, from Hoghton Tower to a mile below Roach Mill, to see if there was anything like an otter there. We had a cold trail of one, which we supposed had gone up to Mr. Hindle's fish ponds, at Woodfold.

April 15th. Met at Mitton Boat. Had a beautiful trail nearly to Ribchester Bridge, and up Calder, but did not find. We called off at Whalley, supposing a bitch otter to have cubs near Morton.

April 21st. Sent the hounds to Halton.

April 22nd. Tried up to Hornby Bridge with a poor trail. Opened two drains about a mile and a half below which the otters had gone from the day before. The fact was, the drains at Halton had been stopped too soon, and the otters were made in.

April 23rd. Found the drain open first thing in the morning, which was stopped at twelve at night, and supposed the otters had worked themselves in again. However, we made them secure, thinking we

would try to get them out if we could find none elsewhere. We had a beautiful double trail to Hafton Wood, but no further. We tried on nearly to Kirkby Longsdale without a trail; then returned to Hornby, and stayed all night.

April 24th. Started at five o'clock. Threw off at the foot of Wenning and found two otters in a large open drain immediately. After biting some of the old hounds very severely in the drains, they came abroad both together. We caught the bitch in about half-an-hour, and worried her. Rover caught her as she vented by the side, and stuck to her. We popped the bitch otter over head as soon as she was killed, and the hounds dashed down the stream and recovered the old dog about a quarter of a mile below at a fine deep. We swam him an hour and a half. At last he was so beat, he came out on to a gravel bed, in the middle of the Lune, and waited the attack of the hounds. Ruler and Thunder were first at him. He made a gallant defence, and his weight was twenty-five pounds good. The bitch weighed fifteen pounds. Had we started at Horton, we should have had a splendid trail up to them. This was Joseph Peel's first worry.

May 1st. Threw off at Mitton Boat about ten o'clock, hit upon a red-hot trail of a large dog otter at Hodder Foot, and hunted him right to the drain opposite Lily Holme. Old Boxer soon brought him out, and having Ruler, Thunder and Bellman in readiness for his honour, we tailed him and sacked him. He weighed twenty-seven pounds good. We took him straight to Mitton Bridge, a little above which we turned him out for my brother Charles, and swam him nearly an hour. He at last took refuge in the root at Dum Jordan, quite beat, and we called off. The river was rather fresh.

May 6th. Threw off at Hacking Boat, tried down to the Troughs, without a trail. Went round by Copster Green, and down to the river again at Sunderland Deep. Had a pretty trail to Blizzar Rocks, where we found an otter under a strong root, just at the turn. The hounds could hunt it in the water now and then, but it always returned to the old root. Having no company out, we did not think it worth while digging to it, so we left it, and tried back to Showley Wood, where the otter had come from.

May 12th. The hounds set off to Offerton (three miles beyond Stockport). I took coach to Manchester, where Andrew met me with Rockwood, Crowner, Teerum and Rock. He had been to Hopwood the day before. We took a coach and arrived at Offerton about twelve o'clock, and went out with our small pack to see if there was any game in these parts. We had a red-hot trail immediately, and Rockwood found an otter at Chadkirk Wear, the longest deep in the neighbourhood. After we had plagued it about half-an-hour, it kept making right up the river Goyt for a coal pit level, which we knew nothing about. However, we contrived to head it and little Teerum viewed it into a formidable-looking drain, close to the water side. The terriers could not get into the drain at the mouth, but after a little work, we made a hole into the drain, about three yards up, where it was, luckily, wider, and putting in Master Rock, there was a battle in a moment. In about three minutes Rock came out, and the otter after him. As soon as the otter got fairly into view, we let go our hounds, and I caught her by the tail. Andrew and myself held her till quite exhausted, in hopes of putting her into a sack which we had sent for. When the sack came it would not do, it was so full of holes. We took the otter a few yards from the river, and loosened our little pack upon her all at once, and to my astonishment they worried her as dead as mutton in three minutes. We returned to Offerton not a little proud, where the rest of the hounds had just arrived. The otter weighed fifteen and a half pounds.

May 13th. Threw off close to Offerton very early. Had a beautiful double trail into an old coal pit level, near Marple, a little below where the Etherow and Goyt join. Could not get it out. Tried up within three miles of Disley. Mr. Simpson was very blustery at first, but very kind after.

May 14th. Having sent Andrew and Frank at twelve o'clock the night before to keep the otter out of the level, we threw off at daylight, but had no trail. He had never come out of the Level, so we returned immediately to Offerton, and the hounds got home by eight o'clock the same day.

May 21st. Tried Hodder. No morning's trail till we got above

Whitewell. A cold, bad hunting day. Had a moderate trail all about Peel's place. Joseph Peel gave all a good lunch and we returned home.

May 27th and 28th. Frank and Duckworth hunted with six couple of hounds at Broughton. Holed an otter next day in a drain, but had not men enough to dig for it.

May 31st. Met at the Five Barred Gate (which was fixed nearly ten days before). Threw off at the New Bridge about half-past eight; had a poor trail to Alston, which kept getting colder and colder. No hunt at Jackson Bank. Said we would just try to the top of Stubbins Deep, and then turn back, as there was an otter below us somewhere. The hounds had got about half-way up the wood, when there was a regular crash, and in a few moments after, Rockwood put the old boy abroad, and the whole pack swam in up the deep in gallant style. After we had swum him nearly half-an-hour, he stole down the stream, where we could have killed him with ease, but we kept the hounds back till he was out of danger, and they took him with a rally into the deep below. He rested a while under a root at Jackson Bank; but after he bolted, he swam, venting before the hounds for nearly a quarter of a mile, to the great delight of a lot of as good sportsmen as ever went up Ribble. We caught him at last in the stream just above the large Oak at Alston. Andrew carried him on to the gravel-bed in the middle of the river, where he was worried with all due honours. He made a famous fight, and weighed twenty-seven pounds exactly. We had out Lord Molyneux, Captain Hopwood, several men from Oversands and from Bury, young Ridgway, Mr. Allison, from near Leyland; Mr. Kendal, Mr. Hornby, Joseph Peel—in fact a very numerous field. The day was beautiful, the water was hot and very low, and everybody was delighted. I was very near getting a famous ducking in a deep hole just before we killed the otter.

June 5th. Took a few hounds down Calder, and found an otter just opposite the strong drain above Hill Hole. Swam him about a quarter of an hour, when he came out into a root a little off the river, where we could have caught him with ease. We coupled up most of the hounds and let him go into the drain below, where we did not disturb him. He seemed to be a young dog otter, about fourteen or fifteen pounds.

June 17th. Having sent the hounds to Bolton Bridge the day before, we threw off at eight o'clock, only to try if there were any signs of otters about (for we could not pretend to kill one—the water having risen in the night). We tried up to about three miles above to Burnshaw Bridge, with an exceedingly cold trail. It came on so very wet; we here turned back. Joseph Peel and I left Bolton Bridge the same evening at half-past-four, and arrived home at half-past eight.

June 22nd. Tried up Hodder to Doeford Bridge. No trail.

June 27th. Threw off at Hacking Boat. Had no hunt till we reached Sale Wheel. Thence we had a double trail to the Breaks just above Ribchester, and no further. We were not certain whether we found or not, but did not make much labour to ascertain.

July 8th. Threw off at the mill above Lancaster Bridge, at half-past four, and found a bitch-otter just above the Aqueduct. The day was quite against us, being very windy. After a swim of above eight hours, we were obliged to give in to her, though she was dead beat. At one time we were very near killing her under a dry root, near the mill above Mr. Bradshaw's; and at another time, we should have killed her in a large drain below Mr. Bradshaw's garden, which goes under the road, had not some people frightened her into the drain again at the top end. Though there were four hounds and a terrier in the drain, she contrived to slip them all, and bolted past my legs, right into the water, like an arrow.

July 9th. Had no trail whatever, but could seal the beggar at the favourite drain mouth, where she had managed to loosen a stone (for it had been well stopped), and got in. We worked all day, but without success. We should have tried up the river for another otter, but James had hunted it all the way from the Rawthly, and there was no symptom of game above.

July 10th. Started with two couple of hounds at Lancaster Bridge, at four o'clock, and found that all was right at the drain mouth, and that the rogue had decamped. We unkenelled all the hounds at Halton, and had a most magnificent trail to the second wear above Walton, in

which deep (while going up to the turn below the Penny Bridge) we found two otters, an old bitch and a young bitch. Finder caught the latter in a very short time, and we could not save her. She was about six or seven pounds weight. When we had swum the old bitch several hours, she stole down to the deep below, where we so completely tired her, that Plunder caught her by the throat under a small bush, and held her till the rest of the hounds came up. The day was wet and unpleasant. We swam her seven hours in all. She bit little Mustard dreadfully under a root in the higher deep. She weighed nearly sixteen pounds, and was the best swimming otter I ever saw.

August 4th. The hounds having had two days' rest at Terregles, we met at Portrack, where we had a very very cold trail at Friar's Scars. The hunt improved, and just above we came to the spot which we had left the night before. Hence we had a beautiful trail to the old favourite turn near the island, about a mile from Blackwood. Rockwood found him at the very root where we had found three otters two years before. He soon left this deep, and we had an animated swim with him in the deep below, seeing him whenever he vented. At last he took the wood with the hounds close at his pother, and beat them into the water about a field above Blackwood. He must have run a mile on land at least. He tried to hole in the root over a drain, then kept the middle of the Nith the whole way to the orchard below the house where the hounds ran into him. This was a beautiful swim. He weighed twenty-two and a half pounds. Sir Edward Vavasour, Mr. Foljambe, Colonel Porter, Mr. Digby, Mr. E. Weld, Mr. Edward York, and the Maxwells were out.

August 6th. Tried the Cargan. Blank.

August 8th. Went to Loch Maben. Tried down below where the river Kinnel joins the Annan, and several miles above Jordan Hall. Nothing but a cold trail down.

August 11th. Tried the lower part of the Annan, above and below Hoddam. Only a cold hunt.

August 16th. Threw off at Hoddam Bridge. The hounds had gone

before in the boat, and Frank had put an otter abroad before we arrived, just below the bridge. We had an excellent swim with it for an hour and twenty minutes, when the hounds caught it amongst some bushes about a mile below the bridge. It came out to land several times, and once kept the woodcock air for nearly a mile. This was a small bitch otter, but a very sharp one. We had another otter abroad at the same time, which we recovered at the rock hold below the bridge. But it stole down to an awkward deep just above where there is another bridge over the Annan. After swimming it a short time we called off, as the hounds were getting tired.

August 19th. Breakfasted at Friar Scars, and had luncheon at Blackwood. Tried up to where the river Scars joins the Nith. Not a symptom of an otter. Lord Eglington and Lord Seymour were out.

August 21st. Threw off at Hoddam Bridge; had an excellent trail all the way between there and the deep of deeps above, but could not find. The two Lords took shelter at General Sharpe's (having no change of clothes with them), and missed the hunt. I sent the hounds to Annan on their way to Lancashire and set off myself to Carlisle.

September 11th. Had a pretty trail from Whalley Bridge (a cold trail below), and found a fine bitch otter at an elm root about one hundred yards below where Sewry Barn stood; swam it about an hour and called off. The water was quite up. My father was out. We found the otter last, just below the Knot Stone under Banks Wood.

September 18th. Met at the Five Barred Gate. Had a beautiful trail from the New Bridge, near Preston, all the way to Stone Hole, but never found an otter. The water was rather high, and the day beautiful. We hunted three different otters. Nowell, Farrington, Edward Hopwood, Mr. Scoles, Simpson, Horsefall, Allison, etc., out.

September 22nd. Threw off at Sunderland Hall and found an otter at Blizzar Rocks. It immediately went under a strong root at the deep above, and gave Mustard a benefit. After some time it stole down to the deep opposite the Lower Hall, where we swam it two hours and

never saw it, and the hounds scarcely ever found it, though they could hunt the water all the time. As there were no strangers out, and the hounds were tiring, we called off. The day was beautiful, and the water low. It seemed to be a bitch otter.

September 30th. Threw off at Mitton Boat, and had a trail to near Sawley, always sealing him up. We tried back to Waddow Deep, and then crossed to Hodder, thinking we might have hunted it the wrong way. We had no hunt till we came to the foot of Little Ribble, and we found an otter at Dum Jordan. Here the hounds marked a little, and then left the root, but Tecrum and Boxer would not come out. In about ten minutes they bolted him. Charles and Mr. Clarke just arrived as the terriers were baying him. We had some nice sport with him to the great satisfaction of a number of black coats from the New House. The hounds would have worried him once had not Frank taken it from them, and thrown it into the water.

October 4th. Threw off at Jackson's Banks, and had a beautiful double trail of three otters from Blizzar Rocks to Walton. Here the tide was so high that it had washed all scent away. We tried the Darwen, but had not a hunt in it. The otters were somewhere below Preston, we supposed. J. Aspinall, Charles Whitaker, etc., were out.

December 6th. Had a beautiful trail from Cock Bridge to opposite the drain above Hill Hole. Here Lofty found an otter, and swam it an hour and three quarters. Plunder caught it at last just above Hacking Boat, and we were obliged to call off for fear of worrying it.

December 27th. A good trail down the lower end of Calder and down Ribble as far as the Troughs. Then tried Hodder, and found a young dog otter about ten pounds weight at Titty Wheel. We coupled all the hounds up, excepting four, caught the otter and let him go again. Miss Ellen Aspinall and Captain Hampton were present. I took it across Hodder for them to look at. Shot Ruler and Wonder.

Caught and could have caught 17 otters this season.

Making in all, from the beginning, 89 otters,

1835.

February 4th. Took a few hounds down Calder, and found an otter (Darling found it) at a root below where Sewry Barn stood. Swam it up the Banks Wood, and down to Couper Spout, where it hid under a strong root, and we could not get it out. The water was very strong.

February 11th. Threw off at Whalley Bridge, had an excellent trail to Hacking Boat, and found a fine otter at Dum Jordan. The hounds put it abroad before we got to them. The water was rather high. We swam it down to the drain at Hacking, where Crab behaved very gallantly, and bolted it. He came out at the upper end of the drain once, and the hounds would have caught him, but I turned him back. We pulled a large stone from the mouth of the lower end, and Crab bolted him directly. We watched him vent some time up the river, then he turned down the stream, and we called off. He was a fine fellow, and we could have caught him in the drain with the greatest ease.

February 21st. A man brought two young dog otters about five pounds weight each, from near Samlesbury Mill, in the Darwen, one dead, the other living, which he had caught the day before. We burnt a hole through the outer web of the off-hind leg of the latter, and sent James with it to turn it out again, that the old bitch might find it.

March 20th. Threw off at Mitton Bridge. Had a cool trail up Hodder to above the Paper Mill. Got past all trail and found at Mab Wheel (Finder). We swam it an hour and a half, and were in a great hurry to couple it, as it began to take the wood and was very dead beat. We could not tell whether it was an old bitch, or a young dog otter. Crab was ill bit, and was obliged to be dug out, having got fast among the roots. The otter gave a half-bred bull bitch a good benefit. It was a fine day.

March 23rd. Threw off at Hacking Boat. Had a very good trail (considering there was an east wind) up to Waddow Deep, when the hounds marked him in some calling on the Waddow side of the river. We did not try to get him out, as it was too windy. We afterwards tried up to Chatburn, where we had no trail at all.

March 25th. Had a trail down Calder and up Little Ribble to Waddow; got a glass of wine at Garnett's, and then crossed over to Hodder, above Bashall Lodge. No hunt. Barker, Keeling, and the Parkers were out.

April 7th. Had a good trail to Doeford Bridge, but did not find. We did not try back, it was so cold.

April 12th. Threw off at Hacking Boat. There was an excellent trail of an otter which had gone from Stone Hole up Calder, but we preferred trying down Ribble. We went as far as the New Bridge above Preston, but did not find. There was a capital trail when we called off.

April 13th. Went by chance to Hyndburn just with three hounds and Rambler, and found an otter at the old drain behind Altham Church. Crowner and Lincoln stopped in a long time. At last out came her ladyship, with old Crowner close after her. We made her vent once or twice, and called off. Rambler offered very well.

April 21st. Met the Philosophers (Charles Vavasour, Mr. McCann, etc.) at Mitton Bridge. Tried up to Whitewell. Very poor hunt. Rather a windy day. There was an otter above Whitewell, but we did not try for it.

April 24th. Came from Leagram with Mr. Weld, John Weld, Joseph Weld, Nicholas Blundell, and his brother, and Marmaduke Stourton, to Doeford Bridge. Having ascertained that there was a down bank trail at the lower part of Hodder, we made for the higher bridge, where we threw off. We had an excellent trail down Hodder and up Little Ribble to a drain in a meadow above Waddow Deep, where we had often been beat. Old Lincoln marked him. We had passed him, and been up as far as Kemp Stone Hole and back. Little Crab behaved very gallantly in the drain, and was dreadfully punished. We coupled all the hounds up, and let the otter get well into the water before we loosed them. The hounds caught him immediately going down a stream, but we managed to get them off, and let him have a short time to get down to the Deep and recover his wind. We swam him in Waddow Deep about an hour and a half, when he was so beat that he could scarcely swim as fast as the

hounds, and we were afraid of him sinking. He got behind a stone in the wall by the river side, and old Ringwood drew him in good style. Several people got hold of my arm, and I got down and reached his tail, having hold of Ringwood, and they pulled us all up together. I took him into the middle of the field in front of Waddow, and we worried him, amidst deafening shouts. It was an old dog otter, and weighed nearly twenty-one pounds. The party from Leagram set off for home, much pleased with their day's sport, and the otter was sent to John Weld the day after to be stuffed.

April 26th. Poor Plunder died of a quinsy. He was ill about four days and had his tongue constantly out, and threw up a quantity of bile, after we had bled him and given him castor oil. He made a great noise when he breathed the last day. We had some suspicions that he might have been poisoned, but when he was opened by Dr. Shaw, it was quite plain what had killed him. We buried him in the Clough. He was the best dog, when an otter was abroad, that I ever saw or ever shall see. Poor Plunder!

May 5th. Went from Shaw Hall to Eccleston Bridge, and tried up the Yarrow nearly to Duxbury, without a symptom of an otter. Had an excellent luncheon at Gillibrand Hall, returned to Shaw Hall, and sent the hounds on to the Five Barred Gate.

May 6th. Threw off at the Wooden Bridge in Samlesbury, and had an excellent trail all the way to Showley Wood, but did not find, the day was windy and unpleasant. We got some refreshments at Ribchester Bridge, and then tried up to Sale Wheel, when the day became so wet that we called off. Mr. Farrington and his son, Colonel Anderton, Mr. W. Wilkinson (of Chorley), Mr. Cross of Shaw Hall, Frank Jerard, Mr. Kendal and Mr. Allison were out. There was a capital trail about the Wooden Bridge, and there was an old bitch and cubs somewhere about, which I was not very anxious to find.

May 8th. Tried Hodder up to Whitewell. Nothing but a cold trail. Joseph Peel and C. Conyers were out.

May 21st. Threw off at Hacking Boat, tried to Ribchester Bridge.

Nothing but a cold trail. Crossed to below Showley Wood. We had a tolerable trail to Stubbins Deep. Then there was a famous crash right up the wood to a very strong hold. We could not tell whether the otter was in or had gone from it. We tried down to Blizzar Rocks with a cold hunt, and called off.

May 28th. Threw off at Wycliffe (where we were staying), tried up the Tees to Rokeby; then up the Greta to above Bignall, crossed over to Barnard Castle, and tried the Tees nearly to Lartington. No hunt. The water very high.

May 30th. Had a cold trail to Greta Bridge. Returned back to Wycliffe (thinking the otter was down), and tried to a mile below Pierce Bridge. Blank. The water still high.

June 1st. Threw off at Wycliffe, and found an otter about two hundred yards below Winston Bridge. We swam it an hour, when the water, owing to the wet in the night, came down heavily, and we entirely lost it.

June 3rd. Started from Mr. Lawson's, Brough Hall, and threw off at the Red Hills on the Swale, about two miles below Catterick. All looked very bad till we got about three miles down the river, when we came all at once to a red-hot trail, and found close to Langton Lodge. We swam it for six hours. At last James tailed it amongst the willows. It could scarcely swim, it was so dead beat. It was nine o'clock when we reached Brough. Little Finder and old Lofty distinguished themselves in the swim. The otter weighed twenty pounds, and had lost two claws in a trap. It was stuffed for Mr. Lawson's little boy.

June 5th. Breakfasted at Colonel Core's, near where we killed the otter, and had an excellent trail to above the Red Hills. The otter had doubled back, and we did not find.

June 8th. Had an excellent trail between the foot of Greta and the Abbey Bridge over the Tees; marked an otter in a strong rock-hold near the foot of the Greta, but could not get near him. The water in good order; the weather very hot.

June 9th. Started very early in the morning, and went up the Tees. Had a touch or two of him about half-a-mile below the rock-hold, and had no hunt up the river. We then tried the Greta. They hunted him just once near the foot. We went up nearly a mile without a touch, and were just calling the hounds off, when they told of it again. We then tried forward, and had a beautiful trail to Gill Beck, up which all was hunting, just as if it was running before them. They hit it from the brook into the river again, and Little Dandy and Lincoln found it lying very cunningly under a rock, close to the water near the Brignall Slate Quarries. We coupled up the hounds, and sent for a sack. After a good deal of trouble to catch it with one or two hounds and the terriers, I tailed it in the stream, sacked it, and brought it uninjured to Wycliffe. We turned it into the pond near the house, where it swam famously for an hour, to the great delight of a large party of ladies, and a vast crowd. Fearing it might sink, I got it by the "pother," and we killed it, amid raptures of applause. It was a little bitch otter, and is stuffed in Mr. Clifford's collection. Archdeacon Hedlam, his two little boys—very keen sportsmen, his son-in-law, Miss Hedlam, sister to Mrs. Clifford, the Misses Mary and Henrietta Clifford, Miss Mary Lacy and Miss Lomax, enjoyed it much.

June 23rd. An otter having been sealed several times at the reservoir in Rishton, I sent a man with a couple of hounds to try early in the morning. He came back with the news that there was a capital trail round the reservoir, and down the canal side towards Tottleworth. We immediately started with four couple of hounds, and as we were walking along the canal bank, old Lofty and Finder hit it out of the canal right into Norden Plantation. The other hounds joined them, and there old Crouner found him lying loose among some whins at the top of the plantation. They ran him about ten minutes in the wood, and worried him before we could get in to save him. He was a fine dog otter, twenty-two pounds weight, and very fat. Little Dandy was the first to catch him.

June 25th. Had fixed to have a field day for at least a fortnight before, and had sent word in all directions. The morning was wet and the Ribble very high, and luckily very few gentlemen came to the Five





Photo by W. J. Carter

SALE WHEEL, RIVER RIBBLE, IN 1854.

Barred Gate. We first tried the Darwen, down which we had an excellent trail to Mr. Swainson's factory. We knew partly where the otter was, but did not like to try back as there were several meadows at the spot quite ready for the scythe. We made for the Five Barred Gate again, and had a good trail from Blizzar Rocks to Elston Deep, where we thought we had found, but were mistaken, for we had hunted heel-way. The water was very cold, and very high. Mr. Kendal, Mr. Merriman, and a friend, Dan Hornby, young Ashton, and a friend of his from Liverpool, were out.

Caught and could have caught from 1829 to the present time, 1835, ninety-six otters. Found and swam a good number of others.

Caught, and could have caught, since 1831, eighty-seven otters.

June 30th. Threw off at Mitton Bridge, and had a cold down-bank trail to Jackson Banks, where he had lain the day before. From there we had a capital trail to some willows on this side the river, below Red Scar, where Bellman found him. We swam him two hours in that deep and the deep below; tailed him twice, and let him go again, after some excellent diversion. Joseph Peel, Captain Hall and three other officers of the Scots Greys were out, and enjoyed it much. They had to walk back to Mitton for their horses. I walked home over Mitton. The otter seemed to be about a twenty-pounder. It was dead beat.

July 17th. Went with a few couple of hounds to Mitton Boat. Tried Hodder, Little Ribble, and up Calder, and never had a touch till we reached the Meetings Hole, below Sherburn Foot, where we had a double trail to Altham Bridge, but could not find.

July 26th. The hounds set off for Lune.

July 28th. Threw off at the Aqueduct above Lancaster, at four o'clock. Had an excellent trail to within about a mile of Wenning Foot, where the otter had doubled back. Returned, and found him in a drain by that large wooded deep below the Crook of Lune. There was a bitch otter and cubs somewhere not far off, and we never saw whether this was the bitch or dog. We got a sack dug to him, and sacked a fine dog otter (little Crab having marked him excellently), and took him about a mile

above the Penny Bridge, where we thought he would show more sport. When we turned him out he was nearly suffocated, the sack was so very small, and the day red-hot. However, in about half-an-hour he came quite round, and made a puzzling swim for three hours. The hounds caught him at last under a root and worried him in style. He weighed twenty-two pounds. Mr. Brockholes, Mr. Joseph Mitchell, Bradshaw, and several Lancashire gentlemen were out, and Joseph Peel.

July 29th. Bought marvel of Turner at Tunstall, about four miles from Hornby, dined at Cleighton, and returned home the day after, the hounds being rather knocked up. Very hot weather.

August 6th. Threw off at Mitton Bridge. Had a trail from Hodder Foot to Sunderland Hall, where we found (Loyal found it). Considering the day, which was wet and windy, we had an excellent swim, and saw it vent very frequently. After we had swum it about an hour and a half, it stole up to the deep above Hothersall Hall, under Red Bank Wood. We swam here some time. It took to the wood, where it had a narrow escape. We called off for fear of killing it, which could soon have been accomplished. Mr. Every was out for the first time.

The hundredth otter. Since 1831, ninety-one otters.

August 24th. Threw off at Hacking Boat; had a pretty good trail from Ree Deep to Stone Hole, at the lower end of which Rockwood was crossing the river, and hit the otter abroad, which had been lying in the rocks above, and near which the hounds had never been. We swam her for five hours, with most of the old hounds coupled up. She stole down to Sale Wheel, and whilst we were sheltering from a thunder-storm, the otter took the land for above a mile, and made a beautiful burst up to a plot between two fields. Little Crab got into the hole, and bolted her before we could get a sack. My brother Charles and Mr. J. Etheridge, from Stonyhurst, stuck to some of the hounds, whilst Briton and the whelps hunted the otter, and James and myself managed to take her just before she reached the river. We were both bitten, but James worse than myself, when he first tailed her. We carried her to Samlesbury Hall and put her into a room to get her wind. We very

near lost her through the window when we were trying to sack her, but luckily, I caught her, just as she had got all but her tail through the glass. We turned her out at the brook, near Chew Mill, for the whelps we had with us, which behaved famously (Duncan, Crafty, Ruby, Crowner). We let her go into Calder. This was a bitch otter, about fourteen pounds weight.

September 4th. (I had not the whole pack with me in Scotland.) Having stopped the level at the Byreburn (Canobie) the night before, we tried for a trail early in the morning, with Crowner, Lofty and Stormer (all the pack we could muster). We had no trail till we reached Captain Elliot's, of the Glencal Holme, whence we had a good hunt to above the Cooper's Stone, where we found a young dog otter, and having caught it, we immediately set it at liberty, and called off for fear of hunting the old bitch and other cubs.

September 18th. Started at Mitton Bridge, and had a very cold trail the lower end of Hodder. Crossed over to above Bolton Roughs, and had a good trail from the drain above Lily Holme to Hodder Bank (Mr. Peel's place) where we found a bitch otter, and two cubs loose under a root. We very soon caught one of the cubs, coupled up the hounds, and let it go again. It seemed about seven pounds weight.

October 5th. A lad brought a young dog otter, about six pounds weight, from the Darwen, which he had caught the day before. It was much bitten about the thigh, which seemed to have been done by another otter. Sent it to Frank at Whalley. Called it Peter.

October 23rd. Threw off at Mitton Bridge. There had been a great quantity of rain in the night, notwithstanding which, we had an excellent trail up Ribble, and found at the wood below Waddow Call. After we had swum it a short time, the hounds were very near worrying it in a shallow stream, but luckily we contrived to get them away, and coupling up most of the old hounds, we swam it for a considerable time with the rest, and then called off. But to all appearance it was a dog otter.

November 16th. Took a few whelps out with a couple of old hounds, down Calder. Holed an otter in a drain just below Bonny's, at the

top of Whalley Deep. Bolted it after digging two or three holes. Caught it by the "pother," and took it across the holme into the river, where we swam it about half-an-hour, and called off. A bitch otter.

1836.

February 11th. Traced a fox into the Dean, having only three hounds with me; found him, and hunted him through Harwood, Billington, Lipshire, Clayton-le-Dale, Samlesbury, and called off in Showley Wood, after an excellent hunt of three hours and seven minutes. I had no idea of trying for a fox, but accidentally heard of him as I was walking out. The hounds hunted him beautifully. I was on foot. (Diamond, Bellman, Crowner.)

Since the beginning of 1832, caught eighty-eight.

February 23rd. Threw off at Hacking Boat. Had a very poor trail down to Stow Hole, where a fisherman told us he had seen an otter vent twice about an hour before. (It was about twelve o'clock). We immediately found two otters at Sale Wheel, and swam them three hours and a half. One of them soon went down below Ribchester Bridge, and the other kept pottering about the roots and sods till it was quite beat. It was a capital drill for the young hounds, with which we swam it for the last two hours. Plunder and Ransom behaved excellently. We could have caught the otter easily. I believe they were two dog otters, and that the bitch had been seen by the fisherman above, being in the heat.

February 25th. I took a walk down to Martholme, having Rockwood, Finder and Loyal with me. Rockwood was swimming across Jack's Pool from the far side, and immediately gave tongue in the water, and swam to the mouth of the new otter drain at Martholme. Where he found, I think, a bitch otter, which was making out at the top end, and I turned it back. Frank abroad. I found it a few times and called off.

March 8th. Threw off at Mitton Bridge, and tried up Hodder to near Lily Holme. No hunt.

March 10th. Tried Billington Moor for a fox, with six hounds; did not find, so went straight to Hacking Boat, where we had a capital trail

up the Little Ribble to the drain in a meadow over Bramley Bridge. We did not disturb them, but came off home.

March 21st. Threw off at Mitton Bridge, had a capital double trail to Waddow Deep, where I sealed an otter down, and thinking the hunt grew more cool, we returned to Mitton, took a trail to Titty Wheel in Hodder, and found under the old root. The hounds had the otter on its back as it came out of the root, but we coupled the old ones up, and swam it down to Hodder Foot.

April 6th. Threw off at Hacking Boat, and hunted an otter through Mitton Wood to the drain above Hill Hole. It had come down Little Ribble. The water was rather up.

April 9th. Threw off at Mitton Bridge, and had a capital trail from the lower part of Little Ribble through Mitton Wood into the drain above Hill Hole. It came on very wet, so we tried no further. The two young Forts and Mr. Jowet were out.

April 12th. Breakfasted at the Five Barred Gate, and hunted two or three otters in the Darwen, between Samlesbury Mill and the mouth of the Darwen, but were not certain that we ever found. Lunched at Woodfold.

April 16th. Started at Mitton Bridge, and had a capital trail to Kemp Stone Hole above Horrocksford, where we found an otter, which crept into a wet drain soon after, and we could not get it out without a great deal of digging, so we called off.

April 26th. Duckworth and James set off for Wales with ten couple of hounds and two of terriers.

May 2nd. Threw off at Ruthin (Hopwood, E. Nicholson, Entwistle were staying there) and at a mill about a mile below the town had a good trail. We hunted down to where another smaller river joins the Clwyd, and up that lesser river we had an excellent trail to another mill, but did not find, the otter always sealing both ways. We next tried down the Clwyd to Pont Ryffith, but did not find. We left Duckworth and the hounds at a small village with orders to meet us near the junction of the rivers in the morning. Cold east wind.

May 3rd. Mr. Peers drove us in his carriage to a bridge over the Clwyd, about a mile above the meeting of the rivers. We had an excellent trail immediately, and found a dog and bitch otter (so we supposed) very shortly, but in a very rooty spot. We had a very lively swim for some time, when I believe the dog otter stole down, and the bitch was not to be found. After trying and better trying, old Rockwood found her very cleverly under a small root, where he had a tussle with her; I had hold of her foot as she was getting from him in the water. We found her a few times after going down, and then got upon the dog otter, working him for about half-a-mile through a villainous set of roots and holes; we got him into an open path of the river, near the junction, where we had an excellent swim for an hour, seeing him vent every minute. He was so dead beat at last that he crawled into the bank, and Ransom and Towler seized him, and the rest ran into him. The swim altogether of both otters lasted seven hours and a half. Mr. Maddox took us to lunch at his house, which was close to, and was very civil. We had several gentlemen to witness the worry, but many had left before.

May 4th and 5th. Tried two or three smaller brooks, and breakfasted with Mr. Ashton. We found no signs of an otter.

May 6th. Having dined and stayed the night at Mr. Maddox's, we threw off just above, and had an excellent trail. We found an otter in about a quarter of an hour, and swam him up to a very awkward shoot, near which was a drain. We fancied he was in the drain for some time, but afterwards found that the hounds always hunted the water to this shoot and no further. Whilst we were digging, he stole down, and after finding him several times, and getting him from a bad place to a worse one, we called off, leaving him below Pont Ryffith, in a place where (as the water was then) it was impossible to show any sport.

May 7th. Met Colonel Vaughan at a bridge close to Mr. Wynne's, about two miles above Ruthin, where the river is very rocky. Tried two or three miles up without any signs of a trail, and sent the hounds forward to Rûg. We returned to Ruthin and followed for dinner next day.

May 9th. Threw off a little above Corwen Bridge in the Dee, and Lincoln found an otter at a root just opposite where the river Alwen joins the Dee. After we had swum it about an hour it got down into the heavy rocky deep just above the bridge; however, after showing a good deal of sport and a good deal of management, we got him below the bridge, where we took care to keep him from going up again. After we had swum him here about a quarter of an hour, Rover seized him by a small root just below the bridge, and held him till James came to his assistance, and the rest of the hounds came up and worried him in capital style. There were many keen fox hunters out, who seemed delighted and astonished. Sir Robert and Lady Vaughan, and Mrs. Vaughan were out during the greater part of the swim, but left before the kill.

May 10th. Went to try for a fox on the hills immediately above Corwen, with Colonel Vaughan's foxhounds; ran two to ground amongst the rocks, and then killed a bitch fox, which the Colonel turned out for the occasion, but which we were not aware was turned out till after the death. I rode Captain Anwell's Prospero—the grey pony Hopwood bought the day after. We returned to Rûg to lunch, and then had a very good draw of trout in the Dee, where I got a nice ducking by a sod slipping from under my foot.

May 11th. Threw off at the bridge over the Alwen, and immediately we reached the Dee, Finder swam across the river and found a bitch otter, without a touch of a trail, at a root about three hundred yards above where we found the dog otter on the Monday. We had a good deal of trouble to get it dislodged from a strong hold for about an hour, but afterwards we swam it for another hour in famous style, keeping it regularly on the move and constantly tallyhoing it. Rover caught it at last up some by-water, but it got from him just before the other hounds reached him. James tailed it directly after and brought it on to the gravel bed, where it was soon settled, chiefly by the young hounds. She weighed nearly seventeen pounds. It was just twelve o'clock and a very sunny day. We had coupled up five or six of the best trail hounds and kept them from the river during this swim. We now started with them up the river to try for another otter. We had no trail for about two miles, when we came to a good double trail, and the hounds hunted

beautifully up to an old dog otter about four miles above. Finder and Mustard found him, and when we had swum him about a quarter of an hour, old Lincoln marked him under a dry root. Little Crab went in neck or nothing, and was severely punished in quick time, as was little Dandy and a terrier of Mr. Vaughan's; after they had blown him well under the root I pulled the terriers and the otter all out together, and overhead they went. We swam him about three quarters of an hour afterwards, and had lost him awhile, when I missed old Lincoln, and found him swimming the otter by himself about a quarter of a mile below. He immediately crossed to the other side of the river, where James tailed it close to Mr. Lloyd's carriage full of ladies, and there he was worried, to the delight of a very numerous and select field. He weighed about twenty-four pounds.

May 19th. Threw off at the Nag's Head, Samlesbury Mill, and had a beautiful trail to the deep above Roach Bridge, in the Darwen, where old Darling found a young bitch otter, about ten pounds weight. It swam excellently for an hour and a half, when Frank tailed it very cleverly and scrambled along the branch of a tree out of the way of the hounds. It was a very hot day, and before we reached the Five Barred Gate the otter was all but dead, though it had never been touched by a hound. Mr. Hindle had caught the brother to it the day but one before, by letting a small pit off where it had been seen. This we brought home and turned out at Hyndburn Foot. The bitch otter lived a couple of days and then died.

May 26th. Breakfasted at the Five Barred Gate, which we left at nine o'clock, and threw off by the Wooden Bridge. We had only a cold trail till we reached the deep below Tom Brook, whence the trail continued good to the drain above the Boat Hole at Elston, in which old Lincoln found a fine dog otter. Before anybody could get over the river the otter bolted, and was well shaken by four or five of the old hounds. Luckily, some of the men got across to the rescue, or they would have worried him as the other hounds were closing in. We gave him a little time to blow, and he made an excellent swim of an hour and a half, venting constantly. He was so beat at last that we tailed him for fear

of his sinking, and worried him amidst the deafening shouts of a very large field. The otter seemed about twenty-four pounds weight. Mr. Farington and his son, two young Ridgeways, Longshaw, and several gentlemen from the neighbourhood of Bolton, three gentlemen from Liverpool, Messrs. Rostrum and Sandford, etc., were out, and all highly delighted.

June 3rd. Threw off at Hacking Boat. Had a tolerably warm trail to Ree Deep, where we had a famous crash through the wood, and found a fine dog otter, but were not certain whether it had been lying in the wood or not. After swimming it an hour and a quarter, we tailed him and sacked him to see if the hounds had hurt him, for one or two had had a turn over with him. We turned him out again under Moyser Wood, in Hodder. He was not a pin worse. After swimming him a short time with three whelps, seeing all his turns and manœuvres in the water (for it was low and clear), we called off and left him. After the hounds were coupled up in Ribble, there was some famous splashing up and down the water to tail him, and some good battles with the terriers. He seemed to be an otter of twenty-four pounds weight. Quite a bye-day.

June 13th. Being in Scotland, and hearing that Lord J. Scott was in the country and wanted to see an otter hunt, I sent for the hounds and wrote to his Lordship, who was unfortunately in London; he wrote a very civil letter inviting me to hunt and shoot at Blair Athole. About three days after the hounds arrived at Canobie. My father was afraid of us killing otters, as Lord J. Scott was not there.

June 15th. Threw off at West Linton Bridge, on the river Line. Had an excellent trail (down bank) into the willows at Justice Town. Tried up Line to the shank, but found no signs of another otter.

June 17th. Threw off at Longtown Bridge. Sir Fred. Johnson and Mr. Whindam, etc., met me. Had an excellent double trail between the foot of Line and Longtown Bridge, but could not find for certain, though we thought it was amongst some calling. Tried up and never had a touch till we came to the Douglas Pit in the Lidell, whence we had an excellent trail to Penton, where old Rockwood found an otter very cleverly in a loose rock on the far side of the river, winding it in the water as he

swam across. We got it down below the rocks, and just as we were upon the point of killing her, she stole out of the water, and beat us into the level, which was not stopped. The weather was not at all favourable.

June 21st. Threw off at Park House, and hunted an otter across the holmes into Lidell, and up to the Inch, but not a yard further. Tried down Lidell and up Esk to Broom Holme, crossed the river to Lidell Bank, and tried down all the way to Newtown without any hunt worth a farthing.

June 22nd. Hunted an otter from the Inch (but could not tell where it lay) down Lidell and into Esk, and up as far as the Forge. Tried down and found him at the deep near Scotch Bar (Finder found him), but could do no good, it was so very wet, and the hounds so jaded with the day before. The weather being very unsettled, we sent the hounds home again, having had no sport.

July 2nd. Threw off at Hacking Boat, had scarcely a touch of a cold trail till Finder found an otter at Stubbins Deep, below Sunderland Hall; immediately after, another otter stole abroad from a small Scar a little lower down. One was a large dog otter, and the other was but a small one. The terriers (little Pepper) had hold of the lesser one under a root at the higher end of the deep, but we got them off, and luckily, just after, the old gentleman stole down towards Jackson Banks, coming once out on to dry land. We had a beautiful crash down the stream with all the hounds close at him, and then called off. He was completely done. He had a very narrow escape.

July 9th. Started early at Mitton Bridge. Had a beautiful trail to Waddow Deep, where Rockwood found an otter, about twenty yards above the Call, lying under the bank. After swimming it a very short time, we entirely lost it, supposing it to have got into some drain. We crossed over to opposite Hodder Place, and went down Hodder, and had a good trail below the Lower Bridge.

July 12th. Was taking a walk by Altham (Read Engine), and was going to cross the Wooden Bridge, when young Crowner and Diamond began to hunt the water. I went back, and little Ruby went with them up a large wet drain, close to the Engine. Immediately after, out came

an otter about a yard before them. It vented very boldly up the stream two or three times, and was not seen again, but the hounds hunted it into a strong drain close to the new wheel on this side of the river. It was seen peeping out at the drain mouth several times during the day, so we went again in the evening to try to get it out (thinking it was Peter the tame otter, which had been lost three weeks before), but all to no purpose.

July 13th. Started very early in the morning at Altham Engine. Had an excellent double trail from the drain (which should have been stopped in the night, and was not) to above Altham Call. We trailed another otter down to Sewry Barn, heel way.

July 23rd. Word came from Oakenshaw, about nine o'clock at night, that there was an otter in the large lodge. We went with about three couple of hounds, and caught it exactly at eleven o'clock, after a very hard swim. Little Ruby hit it up a trough which supplies the lodge with water, and by good luck it was caught unhurt. It proved to be skinny Peter, the otter which had got out of the otter place about five weeks before.

Caught one hundred Otters, since 1832.

August 2nd. Threw off at Mitton Bridge (met Charles, etc., from Stonyhurst). After losing a good deal of time up and down Little Ribble, we trailed an otter down to Ree Deep (the water was high), where Ransom and Ruby found it. We swam it down to Sale Wheel, and called off. Robert Hargreaves stayed to the last.

August 5th. Started at Hodder Foot, and had a good trail to White-well, but did not find. I scarcely ever saw a better trail than we had from Titty Wheel (where the otter had lain the day before), to above Bashall Lodge, about which place we left an otter. Several of the Stonyhurst gentlemen went as far as Sandal Holme, but were obliged to return.

August 10th. Breakfasted at the Five Barred Gate. Had a good trail almost to Ribchester Bridge (we tried to Hacking Boat), but never found. We must have passed an otter somewhere. It was very hot, and as we started between nine and ten, it was too late to try back. We had a good field out. Kendal, J. Aspinall, Longshaw, and two officers, two Hargreaves, Colonel Anderson and his son, etc., out.

August 16th. Threw off at Halton Mill, close to Lancaster, and found at Forge Wood, just below the Crook of Lune. Bellman and Diamond hit it abroad. We had a beautiful swim for three hours. It had several narrow escapes through the wood, and was all but killed under a root. It was seen venting constantly, though it had become windy. We lost it all at once, and I think it had stolen down. We brought some fresh hounds from Halton, and I believe we found a bitch otter at the higher end of the deep, for we swam it several hours, and never once saw it. The hounds began to tire at last, and after a swim altogether of ten hours, we called off. Had the day been still, we could have killed one with ease, if not two (for I feel confident there must have been two).

August 17th. Tried up from Halton to Hornby Bridge. No trail at all. Left Andrew with a couple of hounds to try the Lune early next morning, and went forward with the rest to Lower Bentham.

August 18th. Andrew came express to say that there was an excellent trail at Hornby Bridge. Away we went and threw off above Wenning Foot, and tried about a mile below, without a touch. Turned back and found immediately at the old root below Hornby Bridge (in the Lune). Loyal found it. Had an excellent swim for three hours and a half, on the wettest and roughest day ever known, and killed in gallant style. It weighed twenty-six pounds. Edward York and young Marsden were out. Gave the otter to Mr. Daniel to be stuffed.

August 25th. Had an excellent trail up Hodder for my brothers, etc., at Stonyhurst, throwing off at seven in the morning. Holed an otter in a strong rock-hold up the brook, which comes in opposite stakes. Went forward to give them all a lunch at Whitewell, and heard the melancholy tidings of poor dear Lizzy's death, Andrew having come in search of me.

LIST OF HOUNDS, *October, 1836.*

| | | | |
|-----------|-----------|----------|------------|
| ROCKWOOD. | DASHWOOD. | FOWLER. | PILOT. |
| DIAMOND. | VULCAN. | THUNDER. | CARVER. |
| FINDER. | CROWNER. | PLUNDER. | VALIANT. |
| ROVER. | BELLMAN. | RANDOM. | VENGEANCE. |
| LINCOLN. | LOYAL. | ROMAN. | BRITON. |
| LONDON. | RANSOM. | RUBY. | CRAFTY. |

TERRIERS.

| | | | | |
|-------|---------|----------|--------|---------|
| CRAE. | TEERUM. | MUSTARD. | DANDY. | PEPPER. |
|-------|---------|----------|--------|---------|

"OLD BILLY."

OLD BILLY was four years old when I bought him of Billy Simpson, of Carlton, in November, 1825. He was got by Petronius, dam by Honeycomb. He is now in his sixteenth year, and is as fresh as paint. His picture was taken in March, 1835, by Dalby.

"THE RECTOR."

THE RECTOR was got by Old Woldsman, dam by Scrivington. I bought him of Mr. J. Wilkinson, of Slaidburn, in November, 1833. The Rector was then eight years old.

October 3rd. Took a walk down by Martholme with a few hounds (Edmund was with me). Had a down bank trail of a fine otter. When we got below Cock Bridge, there was nothing but trail. We found one or two or more otters opposite Egsike, and having swum them for half-an-hour, we were just calling off when old Rockwood caught a dog cub about six pounds weight, and the other hounds coming to him, they worried it directly. The water was high, and we could not get across. Had anyone been on the Morton side he might easily have saved the poor thing.

October 8th. Shot a green-shanked sandpiper at Martholme.

November 24th. Took a few hounds to hunt a fox in the Dean. Found immediately, ran him briskly round Billington Moor, and through the banks and Nab Wood two or three times; viewed him past the Waterside, and then hunted him over Bowley Hill and passed the lower town of Harwood, into Norden Plantation, above Tottleworth, where we again recovered him, but could not kill him, as the hounds were quite tired, being out of condition. We had an excellent run altogether, and the hounds hunted him admirably.

November 28th. Found a fox in the Dean, but had poor sport with him. It was a shocking cold day, and not many people out.

December 3rd. Found a fox in the Banks Wood, ran him up the

Dean, over Billington Moor, and over Calder, at the oil houses, and lost him at Clerk Hill. The wind was so high that there was no scent on the high ground.

December 27th. Found on Shirkley, in the snow. Had an excellent run round Harwood, and down to Showley Wood, where we recovered him and ran him to Sunderland Hall ; called off at full cry, as it was getting very late.

December 30th. Found in the snow in Norden Plantation. Ran him by the Bull's Head to Carr Hall Wood and called off, as the scent was not good, and it was getting late.

1837.

April 11th. First day. A very cold spring. Threw off at Hacking Boat. Old Lincoln found an otter at Dum Jordan root, the foot of Little Ribble. Swam it two hours and a half and called off. It vented very much. The water being very cold, we having had nothing but snow for six weeks. We could have caught it with ease but called off. We had it once in Hacking Boat drain. Comely entered well.

April 17th. Threw off at Mitton Bridge. A fine morning, considering it had been frosty in the night. The hounds wild. Found at Stubbins Deep. Vulcan and Diamond hit it abroad together. Swam it till it was quite done (about three hours) and called off. A small otter, apparently.

April 23rd. Threw off at Hacking Boat, and old Lincoln found an otter at the deep below the Rockery, near Lily Holme. We had a very poor swim indeed, for it got either back into the old root or into some other, where the hounds could not mark it.

April 27th. A good trail at the meeting, but did not find.

May 2nd. Hunted an otter from Hodder Foot to above Stakes (old Rockwood), where we found just about sixty yards below where we had found the week before. We had an excellent swim, and left it at Stakes Deep. It seemed a fine otter. I believe we had hunted the same otter from Hodder Foot, though the trail was not at all regularly good.

May 6th. Went with Mr. Joseph Peel to Hacking Boat. Had nothing but here and there a cold scent till we reached Blizzar Rocks, where we found an otter (a very puzzling find a long time before they hit abroad fairly). We swam it between two and three hours, when it retired under a root on this side the river, dead beat. After a good deal of working by the terriers and jumping of men, it bolted again, and had a very narrow escape, the hounds sticking fast till we throttled them off. Little Dandy and Pepper were a good deal punished. Old Thunder and another hound seized it by the face, between two roots. It looked like a bitch big with cub.

May 10th. Breakfasted at Carr Hall, and tried down to Padiham. No sport.

May 13th. Tried from the foot of Hodder to the Higher Bridge. A very cold trail. Cut over to the top of Bolton Roughs, whence we had an excellent trail to the strong drain, about a mile-and-half above White-well. It seemed that an otter had left the drain opposite Lily Holme and gone down Hodder, and that another had left the same drain and gone up to the drain above Whitewell.

May 22nd. Found an otter at the deep below Whalley Abbey (Parkinson's Wharf). Swam it two hours and a half, and called off. A windy, cold day, but we could have killed with ease.

May 24th. Met at Five Barred Gate. Had a hunt as far as a drain at Blizzar Rocks, but could not find. Tried back and crossed over to the Darwen, near Mr. Swainson's Print Works, where we found immediately, and after a swim of an hour and twenty minutes, killed the young dog otter, about fourteen or fifteen pounds weight. Kendal, N. Farrington, etc., were out.

June 6th. Threw off at Llangollen. Had a curious double trail about two miles above and three miles below the town, but could not find.

June 7th. Found a bitch otter after a short but good trail at the dam, where the canal is supplied by the river, but gave in to her after three hours trying. She got where the hounds could not mark her, a very bad deep for hollow roots. Tried up, and found another otter

about four miles higher up the river. The latter part of this swim was beautiful, as we saw her vent frequently. She took the land twice, the latter time for nearly a mile, and just beat the hounds over some meadows by ten yards. We should undoubtedly have killed this otter but for the lateness of the hour. It was half past eleven o'clock when we reached Râg for dinner.

June 9th. Found (Rockwood) immediately at Corwen Bridge Deep; Ransom hit it abroad, and after a three hours dull swim we were obliged to give up to it. The hounds could always hunt the water, near the bridge, but could never mark it. Tried up for another and found an old dog otter, at the very heavy deep nearest to Jones's, which, after a good deal of management and perseverance (for it rained heavily) we persuaded to go down the stream. We had a beautiful swim of two hours and forty minutes, and killed him in gallant style. Sir Robert Hill, Colonel Vaughan, and old Mr. Hopwood stayed to the finish, and were famously pleased.

June 10th. Tried up the river (having left the hounds all night at Mr. Jones's) and trailed an otter from Mr. Evans's to Bala Lake, where we called off.

June 12th. Found (the water too high) about three miles below Mr. Lloyd's of Ragget, but could not kill.

June 13th. Had a fox hunt with Colonel Vaughan's hounds on the hill above Corwen. Found immediately, and had some pretty sport, but did not kill.

June 14th. Threw off at Ruthin, had a good trail close to the town, and tried down to the third bridge, below Mr. Maddox's, but did not find till just at last (Finder), but could not make anything of it. Stayed all night at St. Asaph, very good quarters at the White Lion.

June 15th. Threw off at daylight about a mile and a half from the town. A beautiful morning; all was trail and otters' feet. Hunted some way down the river, turned back, and found a bitch otter (Finder) almost at the spot where we threw off. Had an excellent swim of two hours, and killed in good style. I tailed her as she was stealing up. Cut

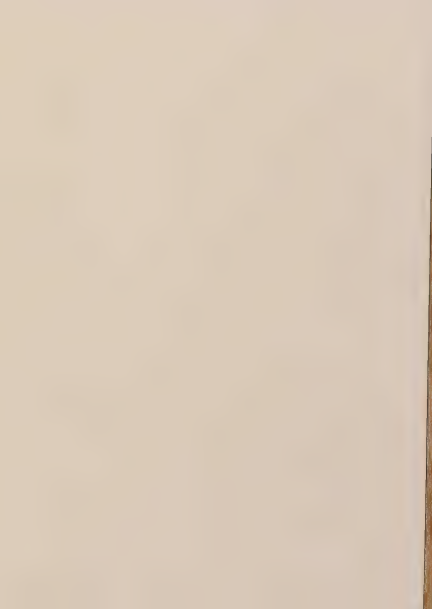




Photo by Duffin, of York

SOME OF THE PACK, 1833.

up the shortest way to meet some hounds which had not been out the day before, and had an excellent double trail of a large dog otter from the long deep at the bridge below Mr. Maddox's, but did not find. The day became excessively hot, and hounds tired. Dined with Hopwood at Ruthin and came on to Chester.

July 9th. Breakfasted at the Five Barred Gate. Dearden, etc., out. Found a bitch otter and cub at the top of Stubbins Wood. The young one was quite blind, and did not seem above four or five days old. Tried thence up to Whalley, but did not find. Dined with Taylor at Moreton Hall, with Mr. Dearden, etc.

July 19th. Threw off at Mitton Bridge. Had an excellent trail from Hodder Foot to Bolton Roughs, where we found an otter loose in the wood. After a pretty swim of nearly an hour we called off; the otter was quite beat.

July 27th. Started at Mitton Bridge. Tried up to Hodder Place. The hounds tried down to the new bridge going to Preston. Not much sport.

August 16th. Threw off at the mill above Lancaster. Thought we found just above the Aqueduct; had a beautiful trail all the way to Hornby Bridge, where, in the drains in a meadow (which we remember of old), we found an old bitch otter. Bellinan was the first to enter the drain and find her. We gave her plenty of time to reach the Lune, but she stopped amongst some rough cover between the drain and the river. The hounds ran her for ten minutes in this place, and at last by good management, we got her to the river unhurt. She was quite blown, and immediately took into a dry root where we could have worried her, but would not. We got her out, and she afterwards stole down to an awkward deep below, where she plagued us exceedingly for about four hours. At last she ventured up the stream, and we killed her in good style. Joseph Peel, etc., were in at the death. Edward York had left just before, thinking us beaten.

August 17th. Had an excellent trail from Halton to the top of Haften Wood, where it ceased. The hounds were dreadfully beat. We

tried back, and found at the turn below, about a quarter of a mile from the river in a large drain to which the young hounds had hunted as they went up, but we did not credit them. Little Dandy found it; and it was very loth to leave its quarters having come down the drain and up several times. We were just in the act of coupling up the hounds in order to catch it alive, when out it bolted, and was worried before it reached the river. It was a small but old bitch otter. Joseph Peel gave it to some doctor in Lancaster.

August 29th. Threw off at Mitton Bridge. Had an excellent trail from Hacking Boat to Jackson Banks, hunting two otters (knowingly) the wrong way. They had gone into Calder, where we could do no good with them. Below Jackson Banks we got on to a fresh trail, and found a young otter at Elston Deep which old Rockwood unluckily worried before any relief could be afforded. We then swam another otter for an hour; it was quite beat, and when we were coupling up the hounds, it got into a drain which runs through the garden at Elston Hall. We could have got it out by digging, but did not wish to kill it. The cub we killed seemed as if it might be the same we had found quite blind about seven weeks before.

September 5th. Threw off at Mitton Bridge. Had an excellent trail from Hodder Foot to Whitewell, finding an otter in the rock-hold in Bolton Roughs.

September 12th. Met at Chew Mill. Had the drain about half-a-mile above Calder Foot stopped the night before. Trailed an otter through Mitton Wood and up Hodder to the deep below Lily Holme, where there is a lime kiln. Could not kill it on account of the plane tree root being so strong that it could not be got out without great difficulty. Old Rockwood found it. It stirred a few times up the deep, and then retreated under the root. Richard and James Fort were out.

September 27th. Met at Mitton Bridge. Found a bitch otter at Stone Hole, swam it seven hours and killed it. A very pretty swim through a cold east wind. The hounds ran into it on the gravel bed. Some of the Stonyhurst gentlemen saw half of the sport, but were obliged to leave before the finish.

1838.

February 8th. Found an otter (all in) in the drain at Martholme : got it out, but soon called off.

March 1st. Rockwood and Lincoln were buried together in the west corner of Sparth garden, close behind the cow house.

March 2nd. Bought Lincoln and Bouncer of Jack Mellady.

March 31st. Threw off at Cock Bridge. Had an excellent trail down Calder and Great Ribble, but, the latter being much too high, we tried up Hodder and had a beautiful hunt to Stakes, but could not find. The otter crossed over land at every angle.

April 3rd. Threw off at Hacking Boat. Tried down Ribble and had no trail till we reached Elston Deep, where we had a red-hot double trail when we got opposite Samlesbury Church. The hounds hit the otter over to Darwen, just the old track. Thence we hunted him to the Alum Houses rock-hold, where we expected to get him out every minute, but were disappointed. We lost little Dandy in the rock, but he arrived at home two days after.

April 10th. Had an excellent trail in the neighbourhood of Carr Hall, but could not find. We thought the level had been made up too late in the morning.

April 17th. Had a good trail in Calder (having stopped the drains), but were beaten by the otter crossing over the field below Moreton, and finding his way in at the other end.

April 18th. Beaten again in a similar manner at Whalley Bridge.

April 19th. Found an otter in a curious place at Altham Mill. Were obliged to stop the mill and ladle out most of the water before we could get him out. He made an excellent swim, and did famously for the young hounds. Brought him home, and swam and killed him in the pond at Sparth. A dog otter seventeen pounds weight.

April 23rd. Met at Doeford Bridge from Leagram, there being no hunt in Hodder ; crossed by Longridge to Alston Hall ; the water high,

and a cold day. Had a double trail about Jackson Banks and Stubbins Wood, and down to Elston Deep, where Singer was very zealous, but could not find. Tried up to Stone Hole; no hunt. Crossed over Longridge Fell, back to Leagram. Peel, Weld, J. Weld and Jones were out.

April 26th. Met at Mitton Bridge. A cold wintry morning. Mr. Jones did not come. Had an excellent trail from Ree Deep to the deep at Chew Mill, where Ransom found very cleverly. Swam him an hour and a half and left him near the road side, where we could not get him out without doing much damage.

April 30th. Met at Mitton Bridge. Had scarcely any hunt till we got to Elston (water low), where old Finder found an old bitch and cubs. Bowman caught one of the young ones whilst we were swimming the old one up the deep. As Mr. Jones had never seen a swim, I thought we would swim the bitch a short time and call off, when, as bad luck would have it, Bowman and Guider each brought out another cub and killed it, to our great sorrow. We tried down below for another otter, but did not find. Mr. Jones sent for a chaise, and J. Weld walked home. The cubs seemed about three weeks old; two dogs and a bitch. A bad concern.

May 2nd. Having left the hounds at the Five Barred Gate the day but one before, we threw off at Roach Bridge in the Darwen, and found a fine dog otter immediately. We swam him two hours and a half in beautiful style, and lost him all at once, when he was much distressed. The water was rather high, and he could get under two or three difficult places, where the hounds could never mark him. Stayed all night at the Five Barred Gate.

May 3rd. Tried Darwen in all directions, and not a touch or a symptom of a trail. He had either never stirred or must have stolen down the middle of the water two or three miles. We had some good trailing of another otter, which had been to all the pits between the Five Barred Gate and Ribble, but could not find him. Ribble was rather up. We thought the otter was somewhere about Seed Park. There had been a quantity of heavy rain during the night.

May 10th. Met at the Five Barred Gate. Threw off above the

Wooden Bridge; had an excellent trail, and found two (Ruby) at Elston Deep. One beat us into the drain under Alston Hall, owing to Frank's neglect in not stopping it up soon enough. We had a beautiful swim for a couple of hours with the other, which Frank tailed whilst endeavouring to get into the drain after it was stopped. He had great difficulty in getting it into Ribble without its being worried. We had some excellent sport with it for about half-an-hour afterwards, and intended to kill it, but lost it all at once, and could never after recover it. What was against us was the scent coming off the other otter in the wet drain, which the hounds could hunt where ever they went. Farrington, Kendal, etc., were out.

May 11th. Having remained all night at the Five Barred Gate (the hounds being very tired), we started early in the morning. James hunted an otter at daylight with Crouner and Loyal, in the Darwen, but found it had doubled up to the "Alum Houses." We tried Ribble, and had plenty of trail between the Wooden Bridge and Elston Deep, but could not find. I think we left one in a drain opposite Samlesbury Hall, which the terriers could not get through.

May 16th. Started at the Toll Bar on the road from Preston to Lytham, and hunted an otter in the river Salwick, and found him at Leyland Bridge (in Ashton), in a drain which went under the road. Old Bellman found him, and Crab brought him out in good style, but we turned him back again, as we wished to catch him alive, all fresh, as the young hounds were left at the Five Barred Gate. He astonished Venture (his first essay), and Spark behaved very well. At last Singer drove it through the drain, and Finder and Venture having seized it, James caught hold of his "pother," and with some difficulty we sacked him. We took him to the Five Barred Gate, where we turned him into a pit, as we expected to go into Wales soon, and did not want to tire the hounds with a long swim in Ribble. He swam an hour in excellent style, when at last they ran into him, and after a very long worry, killed him. He was a very large otter, and screamed very often whilst fighting for his life. Fleetwood and many Preston gentlemen were present, and were highly delighted.

May 28th. Threw off up the Elwy, about two miles from St. Asaph.

Caught two bitch cubs alive (which we brought home to Sparth on our return). Afterwards trailed a dog otter several miles, and found him under some strong plane-tree roots (near a Mr. Jones's), about a mile below the junction of the Elwy and the Aled. After endeavouring to get him out for a couple of hours, we called off and returned to St. Asaph.

May 29th. Hunted the old dog otter out of the Elwy, across to the Clwyd, and up the latter river to the island above Pontriffin, where we put him abroad; but thinking we could not manage him, tried up for another. Had an excellent trail about the fields and gutters between the Clywedog and Denbigh, but could not find.

May 30th. Having remained all night at Denbigh, we took the trail of an old friend at the bridge above Mr. Maddox's, and after some beautiful hunting in the Clywedog, hit him over the fields into the Clwyd, and Singer found him just below the first bridge above the meeting of the two rivers, in a capital place for killing him speedily, but not having all the hounds with us, we worked him with a few hounds till the rest arrived, when he had got below into very puzzling quarters, and where he pothered us till twenty minutes past four in the afternoon (ten and-a-half hours). At length Theo. Chew tailed him in the open water above Mr. Maddox's bridge, and the hounds worried him in no time. This was the toughest otter I ever swam, and weighed about twenty-three pounds. Captain Hopwood was out, and a good number of Denbigh gentlemen.

June 1st. Hunted from St. Asaph up to Denbigh, but had no sport. The water was strong. Had a trail at Pontriffin, but could not find. Mr. Griffith, a good sportsman who lives in that neighbourhood, was out.

June 2nd. Having taken up our quarters at Denbigh, threw off above Mr. Maddox's. Tried the Clywedog; no hunt. Crossed over to the Clwyd, had a magnificent double trail to within a mile of Ruthin, and trying back, below where we had crossed over, found a young dog otter above the bridge, near which we found the old boy a few days before. Swam him three hours and killed him, though the water was high and muddy. Fourteen pounds weight. Mr. Griffith and several Denbigh gentlemen were out.

June 4th. Found a young dog otter in Clywedog, in a very strong hold, and after nearly three hours' swim, ran into him. About twelve pounds weight.

June 6th. Went to Rûg.

June 7th. Should have hunted the Dee, but was sent for on account of my poor mother's illness.

June 27th. Took the hounds to Mitton Bridge for a trail. Tried Hodder, had a cold hunt to Titty Wheel, where we hit upon a hot trail, and hunted him thence to the rock-hold at the Paper Mill, where we found (Crab). After working a long while to get at him, the terriers at last seized him, and were pulled back, as we were afraid it was a young one. He then crept further into the hold, and after about an hour's more work he bolted (Venture after him) into Hodder. We swam him a very short time, when he took refuge under the rocks close to the water, where we could not dislodge him without much labour, so we called off and left him. He seemed to me like a young dog otter, about fourteen pounds weight.

October 4th. Threw off at Ribchester Bridge for a quiet day. Had a beautiful trail, heel way, to a drain above Jackson Banks, where we left some young otters. Tried back and found at (Random) Stone Hole. Killed a fine bitch otter, eighteen pounds weight, after a swim of two hours. I thought by her swimming that the hounds must have given her a shake at the find.

1839.

April 12th. Threw off at Jackson Banks. Found at Elston Deep, but made nothing of it, fearing they were young ones. Had a good trail up to Ribchester, but did not find again.

April 17th. Having sent the hounds the day before, started from Cloughton at six o'clock in the morning at the foot of the river Brock. Had a cold trail up the Wyre to Garstang, where the trail became capital. Thought we had found in a wet drain about a mile up the river, but were not certain. Tried a considerable way up the Wyre, and when we

returned, old Bellman very cleverly found a fine bitch otter, which had stolen into the deep out of the wet drain during our absence. We swam it two hours and fifty minutes, and killed it in gallant style. Gambler did wonders.

April 19th. Had a good trail about St. Michael's, but could not find. A very cold, bad scenting day, very windy.

April 25th. Had an excellent trail in Darwen, but called off, as we thought it was certain to be in the rock-holds, near Woodfold. Crossed over to Ribble, where we had an excellent trail, but did not find. Called off at Ribchester.

May 1st. A very hot day. Having had two men all night at the Alum House Rocks, we threw off at Roach Bridge, and had an excellent double trail right up to the rocks, where Singer found an old bitch otter, but not in the main holds. After a little pothering her, she bolted, and fell slap upon her side before she reached the water. We gave her three quarters of an hour's law, and then found her at a deep just above Samlesbury Mill, where we swam her for two hours and forty-five minutes, and killed her under the large wheel of the factory. She weighed seventeen pounds. Entwistle, Captain Ramsay, Captain Gore, etc., were out.

May 2nd. Had an excellent trail up Ribble, and into a hold in the wood above Tom Brook, but were not certain whether it was in or had gone from thence. Tried up to Mitton Bridge after, but did not find. Very hot day.

May 13th. The hounds worried the otter kept near the kennel during the night, owing to the door being left unlocked.

May 15th. Met at Eccleston Bridge at half-past nine. Hit upon a capital trail at Corbet Brook Foot, in the Yarrow, and had a beautiful hunt up to Duxbury Hall, where we found (Singer) a sharp dog otter, which we swam for two hours, and killed in excellent style. It weighed twenty pounds. It snowed tremendously during the whole of the swim. I never saw hounds so starved. The trail was one of the hottest and best I ever saw. Fazakerly, Farrington, Silvester, Captain Bellew, etc., out.

May 16th. Tried Lostock and the lower end of Douglass and Yarrow, but did not find.

May 28th. Met at Ribchester Bridge. Threw off at Sunderland Hall; found (Random) at Stubbins Deep, just below. Swam her five hours and a half, and killed her just before she reached the river, having bolted her for the second time in a hole in the wood. She weighed eighteen pounds. Captain Yates, Sibthorp, Weld, Seel, Thursby, etc., were out.

June 10th. Hounds set off to Wales.

June 13th. James and Theo. Chew found another otter (Random) at the Island near Pontriffin, and called off.

June 14th. Met at Pontriffin. Had a beautiful trail to a little below the bridge near Mr. Maddox's, where we found a bitch otter in some calling (Singer); swam her one hour and a half, and killed her. Mr. Hopwood and several ladies witnessed the sport. Entwistle, etc., were out.

June 15th. Found (Singer) in the Clywedog. Thought we should have killed immediately, but it contrived to cross up an awkward hold, where we had some trouble to dislodge her. Killed her in good style after about two hours. A bitch otter.

June 18th. Threw off at Corwen Bridge, and had a rather cold trail to Mr. Bassingham's, and then an excellent trail nearly to Mr. Evans's, where we found a dog otter (Singer) and caught him before he got into the water. Took him to Mr. Evans's, and swam him about half-an-hour for Messrs. Hopwood, etc. Weight, twenty-three pounds. Stayed all night at Aberhunant.

June 19th. Threw off at Mr. Evans's. Had scarcely a touch till we reached the long deep at Croggin, below which we had a double trail for about a mile, and then a single trail to Corwen Deep, where we found (Singer) a fine old dog otter, which I think we had passed in some calling the day before. We killed this otter in twenty-five minutes. It came on a tremendous thunderstorm, with hail, just after we found, and he immediately crossed the gravel bed and made up the shallow, where we ran into him immediately. He weighed twenty-five pounds.

June 20th. Found a bitch otter with cubs close to Mr. Lloyd's, of Ragget, in a drain. Caught one of the young ones alive, and whilst we were trying to get the other, the old one bolted over the meadow, at a hole which we had opened higher up the meadow. She gained the Dee, but we very soon caught her, and worried her. Crab killed the other cub in the drain.

June 21st. Tried a couple of hounds down to Llangollen, but finding no sign of another otter, came home.

July 3rd. Left Alsprings at three o'clock in the morning. Threw off at Hacking Boat, where there was a double trail of a very small otter at the foot of Calder. Went down Ribble without a trail till we reached Alston Hall. Found a fine dog otter in the drain in the meadow below. The hounds did not mark him, but James took Crab over and he bolted him directly. After he had swum him about half-an-hour, he seemed dead beat; however, he took down to the Boat Hole, and kept swimming in the middle of the river and venting almost incessantly for seven hours, and did not seem much worse at last. It did not come to the side above a dozen times during the whole seven hours. We called off when the hounds were swimming within a yard or two of him. We swam him in all eight hours and a quarter. We could not have killed him without taking a very great deal out of the hounds and being home very late; as it was, we did not reach Alsprings till eleven o'clock. It seemed a fine dog otter just in its prime, and it certainly was the toughest I ever yet met with.

July 16th. Threw off at the Higher Bridge in Hodder at six o'clock. Tried up to Whitewell; neither a foot nor a trail. Got home to Alsprings between two and three o'clock. Poor Crowner was found dead in the kennel next morning. He showed no symptoms of illness whilst out hunting, but seemed weary and dull at night. He foamed slightly at the mouth, but was not at all swollen.

July 25th. Tried down Calder; the water fresh. Had a cold trail from Hacking Boat (Bellman and Loyal), at Hough Deep, below Sale Wheel. Swam it two hours and called off for fear of killing it. It did not seem quite full grown.

August 17th. Met at Ree Deep at seven o'clock ; a rough morning. The otter was in the deep when we uncoupled the hounds. Called off, till my brother Thomas went to inform the gentlemen at Stonyhurst. Swam it afterwards about two hours, and left it under the strong hold at Stone Hole. The water was a good deal swollen, and kept rising. The Maxwells, and a great quantity of black coats were out ; some of the latter particularly keen.

August 27th. Threw off at Hacking Hall. Had an excellent trail to a root a little above Stakes, heelway.

September 21st. Had a very good trail from Hacking Hall to a rocky place above Black Wheel, below the Higher Bridge ; did not find ; the water high.

October 8th. Threw off at Osbaldeston Hall. Had a beautiful trail to Blizzar Rocks, wrong way. Thought he was above Ribchester Bridge, to which we returned, but then found that we had left him somewhere about Showley, where we had not tried.

1840.

March 11th. Threw off at Hacking Boat. Had no trail till we reached Hothersall Hall. Found at Jackson Banks (Random). Swam him two hours and twenty minutes. I tailed him below the Boat Hole. Brought him home. A young dog otter, about eighteen pounds.

March 20th. Threw off at Sunderland Hall. Had a double trail from Elston Deep, to a little above the New Bridge. Turned back, and Singer and Ranger found a fine old dog otter (Darwen Jack). This otter had been very troublesome at the Woodfold Ponds, just opposite Salmsbury Hall. Swam it an hour and five minutes, and I tailed him going down the stream below. Fought most desperately. London, Rockwood and Ringwood offered famously, and worried well. He weighed twenty-four pounds. P. Maxwell and H. Bowden were out.

April 4th. Threw off at Hacking Boat. Had a trail to Showley Wood. Tried forward and got on to a fresh hunt at Jackson Banks, found a bitch otter (Random) at a root just below the drain between

Elston Deep and the Boat Hole. After we had swum it about an hour, it took to the wood. It would have been worried just before it reached the water, had not Theo. Chew been luckily at hand, and pulled one or two hounds off it. We swam it some time after, and finding it was not hurt, we called off, but could have killed it in a few minutes.

April 11th. Threw off below Samlesbury Mill, in the Darwen. Tried down to Mr. Swainson's Works; no hunt. Crossed over to Ribble at Red Scar. Had an excellent trail of two otters up to Elston Hall, heel way. Did not like to try back. Went up to Sunderland Hall and called off.

April 22nd. Left Harden Grange at seven o'clock. Tried in Aire down to about three miles above Bradford. No hunt. Returned to Bingley. Got on to a cold trail below Riddelsden Hall; came to the morning's trail about half-a-mile above the bridge, near Keighley; had a great deal of puzzling hunting to the canal, and along the canal about a mile and a half; tried back to the river, and hunted an otter (I believe the same), heel way to Kilnwick, where we called off. A very large field out of officers and fox-hunters. Thos. Grainger, G. Fox, junr., Mostyn, Arthur Lascelles, were staying at Harden Grange.

April 23rd. Threw off at the bridge near Keighley, having stopped several of the drains in the night. Had a beautiful trail to a little above Silsden Bridge, where the hounds hunted right across some fields to the mouth of a large wet drain. After about two hours' digging, and excellent working by Singer, who could get into the large sough, and hunt the water, we bolted a fine bitch otter. Viper and the otter came out fast together. James caught the otter, and was bit by it in the arm, owing to the pressing of the crowd. I took it from him and let it go a little from the deep. When it had got comfortably in, we uncoupled the hounds, and had a beautiful swim for nearly two hours. Frank caught it in his arms at last, and pulled it out. We were afraid it would have sunk. It weighed fifteen and a half pounds. Arthur Lascelles and Busfield Ferrand were the only two who were game enough to come out after the previous trying day, and enjoyed the sport amazingly.

April 29th. Having sent the hounds to Rose Whittle the evening

before, threw off at Eccleston Bridge at eight o'clock, had a most beautiful double trail, from thence to Gillibrand Hall, up to some fish ponds, and back again to the river. Never could touch a yard above Gillibrand, nor below Eccleston. Could not find. Thought we left it up near Gillibrand in a drain.

April 30th. Stayed at Chorley (H. Trappes's), and met the hounds at Pinnock Bridge. Never had any trail, trying all the way to Yarrow Bridge, excepting a short hunt close to the Print Works of Mr. Potter, which was most puzzling. Could seal an otter apparently fresh when we hunted from the river, but could make nothing in the world of it. The hounds (Singer) winded two Muscovy ducks quite through a plantation on a large reservoir, and hit them abroad just as they would an otter, without ever seeing them.

May 1st. Tried again (went from Hays's) from Pinnock Bridge down to nearly Eccleston, and up again to the print works, where the hounds went regularly wild after the Muscovy ducks, which happened to be by the river side. I believe they hunted nothing else the day before but the ducks. Old Finder and every hound seemed quite keen on them. I tried around the works and called off. What had become of the otter we hunted the first day we cannot tell.

May 11th. James Westell went to Wood Plumpton with Singer and Plunder, and put an otter abroad somewhere near the meeting of Barton and Hughton Brook. Could have caught it easily if the rest of the hounds had been there.

May 12th. Met at Broughton Four Lane Ends. Threw off at Barton Mill (James having found the otter with old Finder before we started). Had a trail of about a mile right up to him. Found him in a strong root, where he pothored us about half-an-hour, when we killed him. A dog otter, fourteen pounds. Gave him to young Mr. Jackson to stuff. It was so very wet, we did not try any more.

May 20th. Threw off at Collingham Wharfedale, at eight o'clock; the water high. Got on to a trail of an otter which had come up the river

below Wetherby, but could not find. Got on to another trail at an awful deep just above Thorp Arch. Had an excellent hunt almost to Tadcaster. The otter sealed both ways. We tried back to above Thorp Arch, but could not find.

May 21st. Threw off at Harwood Bridge, and found an otter immediately (it appeared to have come from Wetherby), (old Finder) which we swam from quarter-past-nine till half-past-eight. I never saw an otter better swum, but we could not manage him.

May 22nd. Met at Harwood Bridge, and trailed the same otter to Arthington Deep, but tried in vain for two hours to find him. At last, as we were just going to give it up as a bad job, old Danger and young Bellman found him at a very simple place up the stream, above the deep. We swam him one hour and ten minutes, and the hounds caught him under a root at the top of the deep. He twice passed the men in the stream. He was about twenty-two pounds weight.

June 1st. Threw off at Sawley. The keeper at Bolton Hall had caught a young otter about nine pounds weight the day but one before. Had a trail from a little below Bolton Hall to Adam's Hole, about two miles above Pathorne Bridge, where we found an otter in a drain. Crab marked excellently. We let Ragman and Ringwood view him over the field into the river. Killed him in half-an-hour. The hounds regularly ran into him. We might have killed him sooner under a root, where he peppered the terriers dreadfully, Viper particularly. Ringwood and Rockwood worried him remarkably well. He was a dog otter, about nineteen pounds, just in his prime.

June 16th. Tried from Mitton Bridge to Whitewell, up Hodder. Never a touch of a trail, nor a foot.

June 30th. Met at the Five Barred Gate, Samlesbury. Threw off at Blizzar Rocks. Had no trail excepting a very cold touch in about three places till we reached "the Stone Hole," where Singer found a fine old dog otter to our great delight. We swam him there, and in Sale Wheel (but chiefly in the latter), for three hours. At last he ventured down the stream towards Hough Deep, where he took to dry land (being

quite beat), and the pack ran into him. Rockwood was the first to come up with him. He was a fine dog otter, apparently just in his prime; his weight twenty-three pounds good. We had a large field out: Lister, Myers, Alex. Brown, and several other keen sportsmen from Liverpool, some from Bolton, Clitheroë, Blackburn, etc. The three little Baldwins from Leyland stayed the whole of the time, and had about twenty miles to ride home. The otter made an excellent fight at last.

July 27th. Threw off at Gargrave, on the Aire, at eight o'clock. Had a cold touch below Broughton Brook, and here and there till we came to the deep above Stop Bridge, near Keighley, where we had an excellent trail to an island below Bingley. We hunted him into several drains, but could not tell which he was in. Had a bit of a row with a woman, who struck James over the head with a rake. M. Colthurst, and Tennant (Kelvick Hall), were out.

July 28th. Having hired three men to stop up the drains during the night, we threw off at Stop Bridge at seven o'clock. Tried up about two miles, and then down to below the island to which we had hunted yesterday. Never had the slightest trail. The fact was, the otter was made up in one of the drains. Lunched at Mr. Gasforth's, of Steeton Hall.

August 5th. Threw off at Halton, near Lancaster. Put an otter abroad at the large deep above the higher factory, but as the water was rather high, we preferred trying up in the hopes of finding another, and shewing better sport. We had an excellent trail nearly to Hornby Bridge, from which the otter had gone down. We tried down, and found the otter again below the Penny Bridge, but could not get it out. We had a large field out from Liverpool, etc.

August 6th. Threw off at Caton, and found an otter in a drain, which we caught unhurt and sacked. It was a beautiful bitch otter, about twelve pounds weight, but it died a few minutes after it was put into the sack. James had held it a long time in the sun, which was quite oppressive. We tried up and down a considerable way, but could not find another. Peel, Thomas and myself, remained all night with Mr. Dawson, at Hornby Castle.

August 7th. Threw off at Hornby, and tried down to Hafton Wood before we had a touch. Then we had an excellent trail, and found a fine otter lying loose under a root about a quarter of a mile from the river. The hounds hunted to the spot and returned again. In the meantime, Spark put him from under the root. They must have run him a mile in the wood before he reached the river. We had a beautiful swim of three hours and a quarter, and killed him in gallant style. Briton offered well. After we had swum him about two hours, he went through a long drain, where he took to the wood, and beat us over the fields into the river again, just above the Penny Bridge. We had him once below the bridge, and were sadly afraid of his gaining the large deep below, but luckily, he turned up again, and showed beautiful sport afterwards till the "Who-hoop!" He weighed about twenty-four pounds.

August 20th. Threw off at Pathorne Bridge, above Gisburn, having sent the hounds the evening before. There had been heavy rain in the night, and the river was quite up. We found an otter a little below Long Preston, near Halton Hall, but could not make much of it. Colonel Douglas, Captain Bolton, E. Clough, J. Aspinall, etc., were out.

September 2nd. Met Colonel Scarlet and several officers of the Blackburn Dragoons from Manchester, at Mitton Bridge, at eight o'clock. Had no trail till we reached Stone Hole, where Danger and Singer found a bitch otter. We had a good swim with it for about two hours, when it took to the land, and crossed a bare field below Hough Deep into the wood, close to several of the Stonyhurst gentlemen. We had a beautiful hunt for nearly forty minutes in the wood, and ran into it at last. The officers were delighted. It was an excellent day's sport. A young bitch otter, about fourteen pounds.

September 9th. Met at Hacking Boat. All the rivers were up but Calder. Had an excellent trail from the drain opposite Mitton Wood to the drain at Martholme. Did not want to get it out as the day turned out very wild and wet.

October 3rd. Had the most beautiful trail that ever was seen from Martholme up to a coal pit level above Gawthorpe. Two otters had come up the water. The day was still and sunny, and the night had

been very frosty, which had caused the otter to come a great deal on to land.

October 14th. Threw off at Catteral Bridge on the Wyre (starting from Claughton), soon got on to an excellent trail and found (old Danger, very cleverly) at Wild Boar Foot Bridge, about half-a-mile below St. Michaels. Swam her two hours and a half, and Spark caught her by the head, as she vented at a willow. The hounds tore her inside out. Rockwood eat part of her. She weighed about sixteen pounds. We afterwards hunted up the brook which falls into Wyre above St. Michaels. Had an excellent trail till four o'clock, but could not find.

November 10th. Hunted an otter to the Print Works at Oakenshaw, but could not find.

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January. Hunted an otter nearly to Sabden, in a deep snow; Rockwood found him above Read Mill. He took to the wood for about half-a-mile. Swam him in the brook below the bridge in the Whalley, and let him get into a large drain at Park Head.

March 4th. Cheshire hounds met at the Black Dog. Found a fox close to Seaton Gorse; ran him one hour and nineteen minutes. The old horse beat them all up at the death.

March 12th. Having sent the hounds to Inglewhite Lodge the day before, we threw off at Barton Mill, and after a short but beautiful trail, caught (Plunder found) a young bitch otter alive (about nine pounds) near Barton Lodge, and turned her out at the Stone Hole in Great Ribble after letting Rattler and Ranter look at it.

March 16th. Threw off at Sawley Bridge. Had some good hunting to a considerable way above Pathorne Bridge, but were beat with the drains.

March 25th. Took two couple and a half of hounds in a shandry, and a couple of terriers, to try the Yarrow. Threw off about a mile below Pinnock Bridge. Had a very cold trail to Eccleston Bridge. Got on to a morning's trail a little below the bridge; had a beautiful hunt

from one marl pit to another, and back to the Yarrow, where we found (Ruby and Random) under a root. Swam it awhile, when it stole up into a drain, wherein was another otter, which we had suspected in the morning. Took them alive to Croston. Brought them home next day in a box and turned them into Calder. These were two dog otters, one about twelve pounds and the other fifteen pounds. The lesser otter, we supposed, was killed at the canal side at Blackburn, two days after.

April 3d. (Sycamore in full leaf in sheltered places). Threw off at Mitton Bridge. Had an excellent trail to the turn above Henthorn, where, finding we were hunting heel way, we returned down the river, and hunted him to Stone Hole, where Danger and Singer found. We swam him two hours and twenty minutes, and called off for fear of killing him, which we could have done very shortly. It was a very stout swimmer.

April 13th. Threw off at Pathorne Bridge, having sent the hounds over-night to Gisburn. Had a cold trail up to the top of Long Preston Deep. Returned to Pathorne Bridge, and had a beautiful hunt to Sawley, but did not find. It was too late to follow down the river.

April 19th. Sent the hounds from (Bushfield Ferrand) Harden Grange over the hills to Burley on the Wharfe; where we followed with four posters, and threw off at nine o'clock. We had a beautiful double trail to Otley Bridge, and returning, hunted straight to him at Burley Dam. The hounds had some sparring with him before he bolted, little Venture going over head twice with the old fisherman before he could be shaken off. After an animating swim for an hour and a half, we ran into him in good style, Rockwood being the first to make him prisoner. He fought magnificently, and weighed exactly twenty-two pounds. We had a large field out, and lunched with Mr. Whitaker. Mrs. A. Lascelles got him to stuff. R. and Thos. Gascoyne, Richard Lea, William Read, Whitaker, Rev. A. Wilkinson, Ferrand and George Fox, etc., were out.

April 20th. Having left the hounds at Hawksworth Hall (Mr. Horsefall's), we threw off at the top of Burley Deep, and had only a cold touch here and there till we got above Addingham, whence we had a

trail all the way to some rocks above Barden Tower, where we thought the otter was. I thought we left an otter at a very awkward deep, which I did not wish to find in. It was a bitter cold and stormy day. We sat down twenty-five to lunch at Bolton Bridge.

May 7th. The hounds having rested a day at Hornby Castle, where I was staying with the Duke of Leeds, we threw off at Clifton Castle, on the river Ure, near Masham. We could not cross the river; trailed an otter heelway (knowing it) to the bridge near Middleton; turned back, and found at an island a little below where we started; swam it two hours and a half (it was a very sluggish otter), and called off (leaving it under a strong root), owing to a tremendous thunderstorm.

May 11th. Sent the hounds from Hornby Castle to Morton Bridge, on the Swale. Tried down about three miles without a symptom of a hunt, and found a dog otter with a tremendous crash, all at once, at a long willow bed. We could not cross the river for miles, but, notwithstanding, killed him in gallant style, after a very exciting swim of two and a half hours. He weighed twenty-one pounds, was not fat, and appeared to have been a much larger otter. He had not a sound tooth in his head. The Dowager Duchess had him stuffed for her museum. Mr. Booth was out.

May 12th. Having left the hounds at the New Inn on Leeming Lane Road, we threw off at the Ferry below where we had killed the day before, and trailed the otter which we had killed, several miles down the river. Below Skipton Bridge we got upon a fresh trail, and found (Singer) about two miles below Toppely Bridge. Swam her six hours and twenty minutes, and killed her in famous style. She was a bitch otter, sixteen and a half pounds. Mr. Pierce, a friend of the Duke's had her to stuff. We arrived to dinner at Hornby Castle at twelve o'clock.

May 14th. Met at Tanfield on the Ure; tried all the way to Bolton Hall above Leyburn; did not find, but could seal and hunt the otter, which had gone up about three days before. Left the Duke at Mr. Straubenzee's; and returned in his carriage to Hornby at ten o'clock. They were waiting dinner. Brought the carriage to Mr. Straubenzee's, where we breakfasted in the morning.

May 15th. We had left the hounds at West Witton, above Leyburn, the day before, and the men had tried several miles above, early in the morning, and had hunted an otter right down. We threw off at the deep opposite Mr. Straubenzee's, and had a beautiful trail to near Clifton Castle, where we found in a very awkward deep. We swam it three hours and a half, and called off. Hounds, men, and all tired. There was a very bad root where the otter could get in under water, or we could have killed this otter with ease.

Monday, 17th. Being on our way home, and having sealed an otter in the Wharfe, we tried that river above Kettlewell; did not find; the water came down quite fresh. Stayed all night at Buckden, but it was not fit to hunt the day after.

May 26th. Went from Claughton Hall at seven o'clock, threw off at Church Town Bridge. Had a beautiful down bank trail to Wild Boar, a favourite haunt below St. Michael's, where we found. It would not come out of the hole till the hounds were taken from the face of it. Venture dislodged her in good style. Swam her about four hours and a half, when they hunted her into a strong hold. Tried up and down for above an hour. Tried the old place again, though they could not mark her. Old Danger would have it in. Tried Teerum; he stopped in, scratching, began to jump, and there was a battle directly. Venture, Teerum, and Spark had some busy work of it. We worried it as it came out with the hounds. Venture was much punished. She weighed sixteen and a half pounds. We gave it to Mr. Garnett to stuff.

May 27th. Tried several miles above Garstang. No sign of an otter.

June 3rd. Met at the Five Barred Gate. A large field out. Had a good trail between Tom Brook, and the top of the deep at Jackson Banks. Tried it and better tried it, but could not find. The water was very low. The hounds marked keenly at a strong hold at Blizzar Rocks, but we could not tell that it was in.

June 9th. Tried to throw off at Hacking Boat (having ordered the drains at the lower end of Calder to be stopped at midnight, which was

not done), finding the drain open, and a good trail all about it, we went to Bolton Roughs and tried to Doxford Bridge, without any hunt. Hence we crossed over Longridge Fell to Elston Hall, and had no hunt till we got above Ribchester Bridge, whence we had a double trail to the drain which should have been stopped, and in which there were two otters.

Tuesday, June 15th. Threw off at the Penny Bridge on the Lune, at six o'clock. Had a pretty good trail to a little above Caton, where the otter had stolen up some backwater into a large drain. The hounds sent him out at the other end, where a fellow headed him in again with his dog. The otter had great difficulty in fighting over Venture, Danger and Singer. We let him get into the Lune, swam him one hour, caught him in the stream and worried him. He weighed about twenty pounds. As Frank had found a large otter below the day before, we thought he had not come up; so we returned to the Penny Bridge and tried down. We had a good trail to Halton, and passed it at a strong hold at the stile into the Long Meadow. I thought London, Bellman and Crouner went abroad with him, though several of the hounds were very jealous. However, we found him on our return up the deep. We swam him two hours and a half, when he took into the large drain running up towards the road. We coupled up the hounds that we might drive him up with the terriers, and run with him in the open. But whilst we were busy planning, a strange terrier had got into the drain and bolted him. He was coming right over the field, when the hounds met him and worried him in double quick time. He weighed about twenty-two and a half pounds.

Wednesday, June 16th. Threw off at Caton at six o'clock, got on to a red-hot double trail of a very large dog otter, just where we had killed the first otter the day before. The trail was worse for about a mile near the foot of Wenning became as hot as ever a little below Hornby Bridge on the Lune, and continued excellent all the way to the foot of Greta, where they hunted him up some back water into a deep drain which runs near to Thursland Castle. We found two or three places where it had laid, but the hounds could not mark it fairly, so we left it and tried down. We hunted into a drain near a large farm-house, about

a field below Wenning Foot, on the opposite side of Lune, and could seal him in and out ; still, they could not mark him satisfactorily. We dug several holes, no dog having any idea of marking, excepting old Danger, who stood to it that it was in. When we dug two holes within four or five yards of each other (Danger still marking), a boy sitting at one end said he'd seen it. We tried the hounds again ; the drain was nearly full of water (a terrier could not get through) and the water flowed a little ; yet never a hound could hunt the water or offer to mark him but Danger. We were very near coming away, but determined to try one more hole, when Frank saw his head, and then we were satisfied. We sent all the hounds out of the way, excepting Dashwood and Lofty (Whelps), and, putting in a stick, he bolted directly over the green into a large pool of standing water and over a large gravel bed into Lune, where we swam him one hour and ran into him under a root. He fought awfully and it took them a long time to worry him. He was the finest otter we ever killed in the Lune. He weighed exactly twenty-seven pounds when quite dry.

July 3rd. Had a good trail down Calder with four couple of hounds. Put an otter abroad without being certain of it a little below Mitton Bridge. After trying a little up Hodder, and down below Hacking Boat, we returned, and Rockwood found it at the foot of Little Ribble. We swam it a short time, when it got under the strong hold at Dum Jordan, and we called off.

July 13th. Sent the hounds to Rotherwas (Herefordshire), where they were on Saturday, the 17th.

July 21st. Met at a bridge near the foot of the Lug. Had an excellent trail, and found (Ragman, Ruler, and Ransom) near Bodenham Bridge ; swam it two hours and called off.

July 23rd. Threw off at the Bridge Inn near Bodenham Bridge. Ruler found, a little above where we swam the otter on the Tuesday. Swam it nearly eight hours, but could not kill, owing to the hollowing of the banks.

July 24th. Found an otter with Ruby in the long deep at the lower end of the Lug, and swam it a short time.

July 25th. Breakfasted with Bird, and trailed the otter we had found the evening before, a long way up the Lug, but could not find.

July 27th. Threw off at Skenfrith, on the Monnow; trailed an otter to within a short distance of Monmouth, and found it in a Mill Dam, but could not get it out. Returned double quick march, found another otter at a mill dam about two miles above Skenfrith; swam it two hours and called off, finding it unapproachable; tried to within a mile of Monmouth Cap, and called off.

Wednesday, July 28th. Met at Monmouth Cap. Had a beautiful double trail to a mill dam about a mile below where we (Ransom, Bellman, and Ragman) found it in an excellent hole, just where the by-water turned off to the mill. We swam this otter eleven hours and a quarter, ran him up to the Bridge at Monmouth Cap, and returning to where we found, it at length bolted over the dry land to below the mill, where we killed it in gallant style at last. Mr. and Mrs. Scudamore and daughter, and a large field witnessed the worry. This otter, Plowden sent to be stuffed. It weighed twenty-seven pounds, and was very old.

Saturday, July 31st. Met at Worm Bridge (where there had been an excellent trail two days before), finding no hunt, we crossed up to the Golden Valley above Abbey Dore; tried two or three miles up the Dore, and then went over the next hill to a river which we followed to the Monnow, near Longtown. About a mile and a half above Monmouth Cap, we came to an excellent double trail, and Ringwood found in a sort of a short drain, about a quarter of a mile from the Cap. With a good deal of management we prevented its getting into an awkward deep (as the day was getting late) and sacked it with a good deal of trouble. It bit James very severely in the hand, and also Theo. Chew. He and I had to hold it in turn as they were very clumsy about the sack. I never handled a rougher otter; it was nearly biting several people. We took it to a nice deep just below the bridge, where it swam one hour and ten minutes, to the delight of all present; they could see all its manœuvres.

August 2nd. Found an otter at Shipley Ford with Crowner and Bellman.

August 3rd. Met at Shipley Wood, near Holme Lacy, on the Wye ; had a trail down to a very heavy deep below, but did not find. Did not try back, as it was a very bad place. We crossed back to above Shipley Ford, and tried up to Lug Bridge. Lunched with Lingwood at Mr. Ruford's beautiful seat ; tried the Frome for two or three miles, but, seeing no signs of an otter, called off.

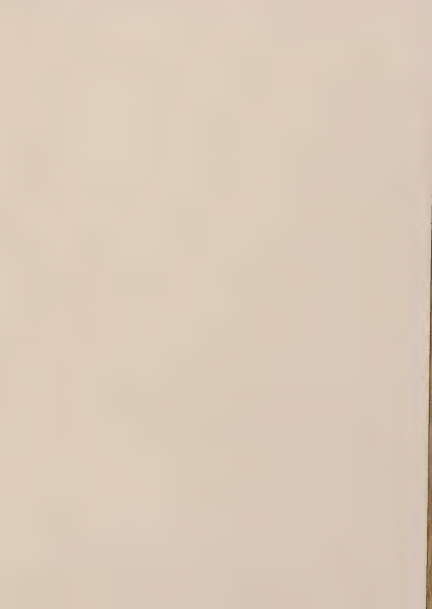
Wednesday, August 4th. Having sent Theo. Chew to try the Lug with old Ruby, and he bringing word that there was a hunt at the lower end of the river (which was quite full) ; meantime we took three couple of hounds after luncheon, that we might plague the otter a little, and get it into a better place the next day. We found it just above the Bridge immediately upon reaching the river, and swam it capitally for four hours and a quarter, leaving it pretty well tired. I have not the least doubt we should have killed this otter had we gone sooner and taken a few more hounds. The water was quite a flood.

Thursday, August 5th. Met at Mr. Bird's, at Mordiford Bridge, where we had left the otter the night before. Had a most beautiful trail up the river for about two miles, finding him in a very strong hold, about half-a-mile above the bridge, where the Hereford and Worcester road crosses the Lug. The hounds could hunt the water, but we could not have got it out without an immensity of labour. The water was very high.

Saturday, August 7th. Took the hounds to Llanarth Court.

Monday, August 9th. Met at Ragland Bridge on the Olway. Had a magnificent trail down the Olway and up Llangoven Brook, nearly to Llangoven Church ; found where the otter had lain the night before. Tried back and found him (Rockwood and Danger) in a very awkward deep, a mile and a half from the town of Usk. Swam him six hours and three quarters, and ran into him under a root. He fought well. Weighed twenty-two pounds. A dog otter. Simon Scrope, and Sons, Edward Scrope, Hawkins, W. Jones, etc., were out.

Wednesday, August 11th. The water being quite up, took Ruby and Grinder to reconnoitre ; they instantly found an otter drowned out of





REID DEEP, RIVER RIBBLE, IN 1854.

Photo by Major Forbes

its hold in a brook, which runs into the Usk, about a quarter of a mile above the bridge. We got them off as soon as possible, that the otter might go up the brook in the night, as the river was bank full.

Thursday, August 12th. Met at Usk Bridge. Found where the otter had rested in the brook the evening before. Had an excellent trail in the river Usk, above and below the bridge, but did not try much to find, as it was quite too heavy to be hunted. Had a cold trail up the Olway to Llangoven Brook, where there was no hunt at all.

Friday. The hounds started for home.

August 25th. Met at Mitton Bridge. A large field out. There had been heavy rain on the hills during the night, and the water was very high. However, we had a good trail between Hodder Foot and the Lower Bridge, and down to Hacking Boat. We found an otter just opposite Winkley, but could not get it out. Hodder was quite a flood.

August 28th. Threw off at Whalley Bridge. Had a cold trail down Calder and about the meeting of the waters. Found we had left two otters above Whalley.

September 1st. Met at Mitton Bridge. Had a most excellent trail up Barrow Brook, and all about the meeting of the waters, but could not find.

September 6th. Found a bitch otter with Singer and Rockwood, in a root near Park Head. Sacked it, and turned it out again at night, thinking it with young. Found it the day after in Egsike Brook. It slipped into a drain, and I supposed died, for we tried several days and could not hunt it.

September 11th. Took three couple of hounds and four terriers in the Whitechapel to Sawley. Had a tolerable trail from Fowden to Gisburn Park, where Ruby and Danger found a fine dog otter under a root some yards from the river. We could have caught him with ease, but let him go into the water. Randy and Pincher bolted him. He soon got into a drain, whence we dislodged him again. He cut right over a meadow and through the river to another favourite drain which

was stopped, and one or two of the hounds gave him a shake before he got back to the river. We swam him some time, and called off. The water was high, but we could have caught him easily.

September 14th. Met at Sawley. Had a beautiful trail to a little below Nappa, where the hounds went breast high to the mouth of a drain, hunting the water some way before they reached it. We got the otter out by making a hole above him and putting in Teerum. We had a very pretty swim with him and then lost him for half-an-hour under a simple place. When we recovered him, he took down to Adam's Hole, and then took to the wood, through which they drove him merrily, and ran him into an open meadow. He weighed twenty-two pounds. This was the same otter we had found on the Saturday. It was about one hour and a half from the time we found till we killed. The water was black.

September 24th. Friday. Met at the Five Barred Gate; tried the Darwen; blank; tried up Ribble to Ree Deep; did not find, but had a good trail about Stone Hole, and another down to Elston. There had been a heavy thunderstorm in the night.

October 15th. Having taken five couple of hounds to Inglewhite Lodge the evening before, tried Barton Brook, but had no hunt, owing to the flood during the night, which had been quite over the banks.

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April 4th. Took three couple of hounds to Barton Brook to try for an otter which had been sealed a day or two before. The scent was three days old; we were of course, too late.

April 7th. Took three and a half couple of hounds in the White-chapel to Sawley. Had an excellent double trail from a little above Pudsey Scar to a strong lime tree root below Gisburn Mill, where we found a fine dog otter (Danger). It was not good to mark, and was some time in bolting. We swam it about an hour, and sacked it. When we had got it about two hundred yards from the river, it broke out of the sack, and all but got into the Ribble again. Having got a fresh sack, we brought it home with us,

April 8th. Having let the young hounds mark it in the wood-yard at Alsprings, we turned the otter out at the meeting hole in Calder, giving it half-an-hour's law to go where it liked. It had stolen up a brook which runs under the waggon road from Altham to Cock Bridge, opposite the end of Martholme Ease, and got into a strong drain, where Singer found it. But we had some difficulty in bolting it, as the crowd headed it back the first time, and we had no terriers of our own but old Crab, who was a good deal punished. He made a good swim down to Sabden Foot, where the hounds caught him. He took a good deal of killing, as we had only a part of the old hounds, and they were fat and out of wind. He weighed about twenty-six pounds.

April 19th. Tried from Mitton Bridge to Blizzar Rocks. Blank. Mrs. Cross' keeper had killed an otter the week before.

April 24th. The hounds set off to the Wharfe, Hawksworth Hall.

April 25th. Went by Bolton Bridge, and hunted an otter with old Ruby to below Ilkley, but could not find him.

April 26th. Met at Pool. Tried to the middle of Harwood Deep without a touch, except for about thirty yards over the grass at Harthington Dam. Returned by the road (double quick) to Pool, got on to a trail above Burly and found at Addingham Mill Dam; swam him beautifully for two hours, and ran into him, Ringwood and Spark holding him for some time till the other hounds came up. Weight, twenty-five pounds. I believe there was another otter in the deep, which stole up; but it was nearly dark, so I said nothing of it. We had an immense field out in the morning. Fox, Lascelles, Brown, Lister, Whitaker, Horsefall, Brankers, Dickson, T. Horsefall, (near Thirsk), were at the kill.

April 27th. Threw off at Bolton Bridge; (the hounds really not fit to go out); had a cold trail to above Barden Towers; lunched at a village three miles below Grassington; returned to Bolton, had a magnificent luncheon, and set off home. Three young otters were caught in the Wyre about this time near Garstang.

May 7th. Went from F. Riddell's, at Leyburn, and threw off at the Iron Bridge over the Ure, near Middleham. Got on to a good trail

at a drain some way below Danby Hall ; dug some time, not knowing whether the otter was in or not, some of the terriers being very keen. Found a place where the otter had lain, but thought he was not in, though one person said positively that he saw his head. It must have been one of the terriers. Had a pretty good trail down, and found at Elvington Deep (Danger and Singer). The swim was cheery at first, and afterwards became very dull for about an hour and a half, when Venture was perceived to have a very bloody face, having bolted the otter from his strongest hold, whilst we had been trying below. After this we had a beautiful swim (considering the day, which was cold and stormy) ; the otter took down the stream and out into the wood, whence Random and Ruby brought him smartly back into the Ure. Rockwood and two or three more hounds caught him shortly after, lying between two stones, but he got away from them as they got out of their depth. He then made great play to regain the deep, but being headed, Ringwood and Singer seized him in the shallow, and he was worried in gallant style. (Mrs. Hutton, of Clifton, kindly sent us down an excellent luncheon.) This was a dog otter, weighing about sixteen pounds. There was never an otter killed on a worse day for hounds, and an otter was never known to be killed in this deep before. P. Maxwell, Cholmondeley, Riddell, and some very keen sportsmen were out till the last. The Misses Charlton were driven off by the rain in the morning.

May 9th. Met at Middleham Bridge. Knowing that a fine otter had gone up by Bolton Hall, we threw off just below the bridge near Leyburn, and had a beautiful trail into a rock-hold at Aysgarth Falls, where we tried in vain to get him out. Miss T. Charlton and a large field out. Lunched at Powell's.

May 10th. Threw off at Middleham Bridge. Had a good trail to Danby Mill. Heard some of the hounds hunted hard amongst the islands, but could not see them. Finding no trail below, we returned. When the hounds came back to the islands they went up the stream with a tremendous roar right to him. Singer had found the otter before, and he had removed to a fresh hold, whilst we were below. We had some excellent sport now ; first tallyhoing him there, now viewing him

over the land, now down the stream, till at last he beat us into the mill race, and Ruler hit him up into the long deep above the bridge, where the knowing ones thought we should be beaten. After some rather dull work for about two hours, at the lower end of the deep, he stole up, and we then had an hour and a half as pretty sport as could be wished, and as fine a day for it. He was at last so beat that a man pulled him out by the chin, and we worried him amid tremendous shouts. Vengeance offered famously at the worry. Mrs. Cholmondeley, the Misses Charlton, Mr. and Mrs. Pulling, Mr. and Mrs. Chaters, the Misses Straubenzee, Messrs. Powlet, P. Maxwell, Cholmondeley, Riddell, Captains Hogg and Wharton, Parson Wharton (who got overhead), Wray, Lodge, and several other good sportsmen of that neighbourhood were present, and quite delighted. This otter weighed about twenty-three pounds, and P. Maxwell took it to be stuffed. I never saw one that could run faster. We swam him altogether four hours and three quarters.

May 12th. Threw off at Danby Mill; tried to below Masham; cut into the river again above Tanfield, where we had a cold trail; found beautifully all at once at a small deep about half-a-mile below, the whole pack going abroad at once, though the otter had not stirred. After a little digging they bolted it, whilst I was trying below for fear it might have stolen down, and before I could reach them they had worried it; there being no one to keep the hounds out of the water, and the stream being shallow. This was a bitch otter, about eleven pounds weight, and would have shown some nice sport with the young hounds. We had a very fair trail to the Clay Pits below Norton Conyers to a root where this otter had come from the night before. They took the hounds to Ripon on their way home, and we returned to dine with Cholmondeley at half-past ten. A Mr. Mason sent us out a grand luncheon, which helped us home. P. Maxwell, Riddell, Custombury, Cholmondeley, P. Wharton, and myself had a stiff walk home. The Misses Charlton stayed out till the finish, about half-past five. Left Mr. Riddell's next day for home.

May 31st. Threw off at Church Town, near Cloughton Hall. Had an excellent trail down to St. Michaels, where we found (Random and Ragman); swam it five hours and a half, but did not kill. We supposed

the otter had got under some strong stick calling. The hounds could always hunt the water breast high at the stream below Mr. Hornby's house, but could not mark it. Venture went overhead with the otter at one time, and was nearly drowned by the hounds taking him for the otter when he came up.

June 1st. Threw off at Church Town, where there was a very puzzling hunt; we at last found out that we had left an otter in some stick calling there the day before, and that it had gone down. We took the road to below St. Michaels, and had no hunt till we passed Wild Boar Foot Bridge, where there was a tolerable trail to where the tide had been up; after that we had not a touch. We returned to St. Michaels, and found that there was an excellent trail at the old spot, where we had swum an otter the day before, but did not try to find it, on account of the grass being so forward. A large field out.

June 8th. Threw off at Corwen. Had not a touch till we came to a deep about two miles below Croggin; had a good trail to the turn below the bridge, and found a bitch otter and cubs in the middle of the deep, though there was not the slightest trail in any part of the deep. Pincher worried the cubs and eat part of them. We swam the old bitch nine hours and a half, and killed her about half-a-mile above where she was first found. She was lost for some time under a very simple place which was hollow, the hounds always wishing to mark below. She was about sixteen pounds weight, and as good a swimmer as I ever hunted. Edward Jones tailed her at last very cleverly.

June 20th. Threw off above Croggin (coming myself from Aberhunant with Captain Hopwood and W. Clegg); had a trail nearly to Bala, where we dug a long while at some calling, but could make nothing of it, though the terriers were keen; it was a very strong place. As there had been some heavy rain in the night which spoiled our sealing, we tried all the way back to below Croggin, thinking we might have hunted heel way, but could not find. Left the hounds at Llandrillo, about a mile off, and returned to Aberhunant.

June 21st. Tried with a couple of hounds from Croggin up to Rhiwlas Bridge; no trail at all. Came on to a hunt just above the bridge,

uncoupled all the hounds and found two otters about a quarter of a mile above. Ringwood worried a young dog otter of about fifteen pounds, before it could get abroad. The old bitch we swam ten hours and a half, and caught her at last about a mile below where she was first found. She was about fifteen pounds weight. Entwistle arrived in the middle of the swim and saw the finish, and likewise a Mr. Burton from Shrewsbury, who came on purpose to see the hounds.

June 22nd. Rested at Aberhunant. The hounds went to Corwen.

June 23rd. Met at Corwen. There was a good trail above the bridge, but could not get a foot, till we had hunted a couple of miles up the river, where we sealed a fine dog otter coming down. We returned to Corwen Bridge, trying every likely place on the way back; had a most singular trail, touching about once in two miles, very hot, till we came on to a colder hunt below, and could seal a fine otter, but not fresh. As we were rather puzzled what to make of it, we put up the hounds, all but a couple, at the public house above. Taking Random and Danger lower down the river, we got on to a better trail and lots of sealing both ways; one seemed a fine dog otter. We put one abroad about two o'clock, and sent for the rest of the hounds. After we had been swimming it about an hour and a half, James was trying down with Ruby, and Spark, and found another otter, whilst I was swimming the old one above. We took after the fresh otter, thinking it was the old dog, and after swimming it about three hours in good style, it stole down by an island, and it got so wet and cold, and the hounds seemed so beat, that we called off and left it. We left off about three miles above Llangollen, and I determined not to hunt in the morning as the weather appeared quite broken. Captain Hopwood, W. Clegg, and Entwistle had about twenty-four miles to get back to Aberhunant after half-past seven o'clock. Had the day been fine, and had we found earlier, we could not possibly have missed killing both otters. Stayed all night in Llangollen. Next morning set off home.

July 28th. Threw off at the Penny Bridge above Lancaster, had an excellent trail, stopping to try two drains below Hornby, as far as the turn above Hornby Bridge, where we found two otters. After swimming

the bitch for above an hour and a half, we changed on to the dog, which we caught in about half-an-hour after, just above Hornby Bridge. It made a good fight. Mr. Dawson's keeper tailed it. It weighed twenty-six and a half pounds. We then tried again, for the otter, which, in the meanwhile, had stolen out amongst some willow bushes. After some sharp dry land hunting for a few minutes we killed her; she weighed fourteen and a half pounds. A large field out from Liverpool, half-a-dozen lawyers from the Assizes, De Trafford, Aspinall, Peel, etc., were out.

July 29th. Threw off at Penny Bridge. Had a trail down to below Halton, where we found he had got in the middle of the meadow, though the drains had been stopped. Returned to Penny Bridge; got on to another excellent trail above Caton; tried up above Hornby Bridge, and thought he was in a wet drain about a mile below Hornby, which we had opened the day before, and which we again opened in several places, but in vain.

August 10th. Having sent the hounds to Rathmell; breakfasted with Peel, Aspinall, Langdale, etc., at Gisburn, and threw off at the bridge below Long Preston. Had a very indifferent trail about the middle of the deeps, but did not find. I believe the otter was made up in the drain. Tried down the river, and had a very hot trail into a drain above Gisburn Mill, but as it was late in the day, and there was but a very slight chance of getting it out (as the field was full of drains), we returned to Gisburn.

September 19th. Threw off at Church Town Bridge, at eight o'clock. Had a double trail from the top of the deep above, down to about a mile below the Wild Boar Bridge, but could not find. Tried back to the drain above Garstang.

September 20th. Threw off at Garstang Bridge at nine o'clock. Had no trail till we got to below St. Michaels, whence we had an excellent double trail to the bridge below Eccleston. Tried it well back, but could not find.

September 21st. Threw off at St. Michaels, at nine o'clock. Had an excellent trail right up to the deep above Church Town, could not find

for a long while. We thought it was in the drain, but after digging for some time we found it was no go. I tried up the deep again, and found it lying very loose amongst some calling. We swam it well five and a half hours, and could not kill for want of daylight. There was a severe hail storm in the middle of the swim, and the water rose a good deal from the mills.

September 22nd. Returned home from Claughton, Fitzherbert and Nicholson were staying there. Promised Mrs. * * * an otter to stuff.

October 14th. Buried poor Old Billy, aged twenty-three years, under the holly by the woodside below Alsprings.

1843.

March 30th. Threw off at Osbaldeston Hall, and Singer found an otter below Dobbin Wood; had an excellent swim for an hour and twenty minutes, and called off for fear of killing it. Ruler died a few days after, having caught a severe cold.

April 5th. Had a capital trail from Hodder Foot to the drain at Lily Holme; did not try to get it out, as it was coming on wet.

April 20th. The hounds set off for the Duke of Leeds.

April 25th. Met at Kilgram Bridge, on the Ure; the river quite out.

April 27th. Started at Skipton Bridge, and tried down to the junction of the rivers, and up the Ure to Ripon. Blank. P. Maxwell, Riddell, Rev. Courtney Smith from Derbyshire, and myself, stayed all night at Ripon.

April 28th. Threw off at Ripon Bridge, and got on to a trail a little below the Clay Pits, near Norton Conyers. Found an otter at the Clay Pits, but could do no good with it, the water being too high, and the day cold and awfully wet. Had an excellent lunch at Mr. Machell's, of Norton Conyers, and returned to Hornby Castle.

Tuesday, May 2nd. Threw off at Woolf, four miles below Tanfield. Never had a trail till we reached Clifton Castle. Found a young dog

otter in Ellington Deep, and killed it. Thought old Ringwood worried another. Thought Danger and the terriers were smothered in the hole for some time.

Wednesday, May 3rd. Threw off at Kilgram Bridge; had a cold trail from Spennythorne to a deep about a mile and a half above Bolton Hall, whence we had a good trail to a strong rock-hold above Aysgarth Falls, but could not stir him. Stayed all night with F. Riddell and Maxwell, and the Powell's also. Left the hounds near Aysgarth.

Thursday, May 4th. Hunted him down to a strong hold in the deep about a quarter of a mile above Ulshaw Bridge, but could not get it abroad. The Duke of Leeds, Straubenzee, and myself, dined and stayed all night with Cholmondeley.

Friday, May 5th. Trailed him beautifully to a strong root in an Island below Clifton Castle, where the hounds ran into him and worried him gallantly. James tried to get him from them, but could not manage it. A dog otter; weight twenty-four pounds. Mr. Cholmondeley had it stuffed. Tecrum took the pet, and was at home in Lancashire the next afternoon.

May 9th. Threw off at the bridge below Wycliffe (Singer having hunted what seemed to be an otter under a strong hold the day before); tried down to Croft Bridge without a touch.

May 10th. Sent James by rail from Darlington to Thirsk. He tried the Cod Beck and the Swale to a little above Topcliffe, and returned to Wycliffe. Blank. We sent Theo. Chew word, to go on from Leeming Lane to Ripon.

May 11th. Left Wycliffe for Richmond after dinner. Found that Theo. Chew had hunted a fine otter down the Swale by the Ferry near the Oak Tree, Leeming Lane. Thought of course, he would remain there with the hounds.

May 12th. Fixed to meet at the Oak Tree at nine o'clock. Found Theo. Chew (like a blockhead) had gone on to Ripon, where we went post haste after him, and with gigs we got all back to the Swale in tolerable

time. Threw off about a mile and a half above Topcliffe, and found where the otter had lain the day before. Had James gone half a mile further up the Swale the day before, he must have found him. We trailed him to a root about a quarter of a mile above the mouth of the Cod Beck, where they found him (it bit Danger), and hit him abroad beautifully. We did not see him for three hours, though they kept him going well. Old Singer and Danger recovered him two or three times delightfully. We swam him, altogether, five hours and a half. The last hour was magnificent. A dog otter; weight twenty-two pounds. Bowden had him to stuff. P. Maxwell tailed him, and I took him to land, where they worried him in double quick time.

June 14th. Threw off at Mitton Bridge. Tried down to Ribchester. No sport.

June 20th. Threw off at the Penny Bridge, above Lancaster. Had a good trail down to the meadow below Halton, where the hounds killed a fine bitch otter, before she could get abroad. She weighed eighteen pounds, and had three cubs in her. We returned to the Penny Bridge, and about half-a-mile up the Lune; took the trail of a fine dog otter and hunted him into a large drain at the foot of Wenning. Danger, Singer, Bowler, and Venture were much punished before he bolted. We had a beautiful swim of two hours and a half, and killed him about a mile below in gallant style. J. Aspinall, Gillow (from Leighton). Machell (from Oversands), and some keen friends of his were out. This otter weighed twenty-five and a half pounds.

June 21st. Breakfasted at Dawson's, at Hornby Castle, and threw off a little above Wenning Foot. Had a tolerable trail to Hornby Bridge, as we supposed, of the otter which we had killed the day before, and then had here and there a cold touch, till we got almost to Kirkby Bridge, where we got on to a beautiful double trail, and holed an otter in a strong rock, about a mile and a half above the bridge, and a quarter of a mile from the Lune, up a rough beck. We were afterwards persuaded to try the Greta, by the keeper at Thurland Castle, but had no hunt. Dined at Hornby, and drove over the hills to Whitewell the same night; an awful long stage.

July 4th. Met at Sawley at eight o'clock. Had not a touch till we reached Fooden Rockhold, whence we had a straight up bank trail to a little above Adam's Hole, where we found an old dog otter, and were nearly worrying him, the water being low. We called off the hounds for a few minutes, and afterwards swam him for nearly three quarters of an hour, giving him every advantage we could, in order to show sport. They ran into him in the stream, and worried him. He weighed nearly twenty-two pounds. J. Aspinall, Hodgson, (of Bolton Hall) and Ashton (of Bashall Lodge) were out.

August 18th. Threw off at Hacking Boat. Tried down Ribble; had a very hot trail about Stubbins Deep, and found below Jackson Banks, in some loose brash, just above the bank at old Charnley's. Random hit it abroad. Swam it about a quarter of an hour and called off, as we saw a very small one vent.

August 28th. Threw off at Overton Bridge, on the Dee. Had a good trail for about ten miles up the river to Chirk Castle. Returned and found an otter about one mile and a half above the bridge. It had got too late to make anything of it. The hounds at least kept hunting the water. J. Aspinall was out. The water was rather high.

August 29th. Threw off at the same bridge. The water a good deal risen. Had an excellent trail to a brook which falls into the Dee, two or three miles below Bangor Bridge. Found an otter in the brook, at four o'clock, and swam it till half-past seven. It was dead beat, but we could not find it at last, owing to darkness coming on.

September 13th. Threw off at Garstang Bridge. Had not a touch till we reached the mouth of the Brock, whence we had a good double trail to a ford about a mile below Willow Bridge. Could never find, though old Ransom always hunted the water below some very strong calling.

September 14th. Threw off at St. Michaels Bridge. Had a beautiful double trail to exactly the same place where we had hunted to the day before. Found, as we returned in some calling, where we just hit off the trail. Teerum had found this otter as we went down, but we had not

seen it. We swam it for four hours, and it got at last into some stick calling, from whence we could not bolt it.

September 15th. Sent James Westell, from Claughton, with old Danger and Ragman, in hopes that the otter might have come up towards Garstang. Luckily he hunted it into a drain near Catterall, where we soon caught it alive with the terriers. As there was a good deal of awkward calling in the deep, which would prevent us showing good sport, we turned it out in a long deep about a mile above Garstang. Here it made an excellent swim for two hours and seven minutes, when they ran into it. It was a bitch otter, fifteen pounds weight. Finder hunted it beautifully up the deep by himself, when we turned it out.

September 28th. Met at the Five Barred Gate. Threw off at Red Scar. Had very little trail till we reached Stubbins Deep, where we found two otters. Having hunted them in the wood and in the deep for four hours, we killed one of them—a young dog otter about fourteen pounds—and then called off, as we did not wish to annihilate the breed. The other otter seemed to be a very large one, and had one or two very narrow escapes. A large field out from Liverpool and Preston. Gillow, Miss Gillow and her brother Joseph, etc., were out. Returned to J. Chadwick's, and stayed all night.

1844.

April 10th. Threw off at Hacking Boat. Found (Danger) just above the tract through Mitton Wood, in Calder, and swam it about an hour; rescued it twice from the hounds. Pepper brought it out of a rabbit hole in good style. Briton offered well. Found to be a young bitch otter. As hot as June.

April 15th. Threw off at Sale Wheel, and had a magnificent trail from the ford below Ribchester Bridge to a root above the Boat Hole at Elston. Ringwood found him. We put it abroad, and called off very soon, as it turned cold and windy.

April 23rd. Coming from Claughton, we threw off at Catterall Bridge, on the Wyre. Had an excellent trail near St. Michaels and up the brook to near Barton Lodge, but did not find.

April 24th. Tried down to St. Michaels and up all the brooks. Blank. Having left the otter below St. Michaels.

April 25th. Had an excellent trail from a little above St. Michaels to below Wild Boar Bridge, but could not find.

April 26th. Found in the drain at Catterall Deep. Before we thought we had disturbed it, it stole out of the drain, and old Plunder hit it abroad beautifully. We lost this otter for three or four hours, and recovered it below the brook which joins the river near the works. We then had a beautiful swim of about two hours, and ran into him.

May 9th. Threw off at Harwood Bridge, leaving Hawksworth Hall that morning. Had a very cold trail till we reached Beilby Grange, where we had an excellent trail and found in the deep at Thorp Arch. We swam it above three hours, but could not manage it. Left the hounds at Brown's, and returned with P. Maxwell and Rev. Smith to Harwood Bridge.

May 10th. Threw off at Beilby Grange. Had a trail to Thorp Arch Mill. Tried a mile and a half below; returned and found not a quarter of a mile above the house. Swam this otter for several hours, but could not kill it owing to the steepness of the banks and overhanging rocks. Went to Stockeld Park, and spent Saturday and Sunday at Hazlewood.

May 13th. Threw off at Walshford Bridge, on the Nidd, and found (Danger) just above the bridge, at about eleven o'clock. Swam it till after nine at night, when it was much distressed, but was saved by the darkness. The last two hours of the swim were very cheery; the first part was very dull, as we had to be constantly digging. Mr. and Mrs. Stourton were out. Got to dinner at Stourton's at half-past eleven.

May 14th. Having left the hounds at Walshford Bridge, we threw off exactly at the spot where we had left him the night before, and had a nice trail for about a mile, and could not hunt him a yard further. After puzzling about for three or four hours, we found him (Ringwood) in a drain a little below the Wooden Bridge at Ribston. The drain was a tolerable size, near the river, but was a narrow tile drain further up.

Teerum could, with great difficulty, creep up it, and drove the otter out beautifully at the top near the road, but the hounds being all loose, it was headed back twice, and, not being able to pass the terrier on account of the narrowness of the drain, it punished him so severely that he died the next day. We turned the otter out of the drain at the top of the field, and all saw him galloping down to the river. He made excellent sport for about an hour, then became tedious, and was very difficult to manage, having got under a hollow bank laying in the water. Whilst remaining under this root, the wind blew the scent off the water on to the fields above, and the hounds fancied it had taken to the dry land. It eventually stole into the drain again, and we got him out and killed him. Weight, twenty-two pounds. Fox's little boy had it to stuff. Oates begged Teerum for his collection. Mrs. W. Witham stayed till the last.

May 17th. Started from Linton Foot, and found in a drain at Burley Dam. Killed it before it got into the Wharfe, the mob letting go the hounds instead of sticking to them. Sent the hounds to Hawksworth on their road home, and spent a few days with Wright at Thorp Arch. Mr. and Mrs. Stourton, the Misses Stourton, and others were out. Had an excellent field out every day.

May 23rd. Tried some pits near Copster Green with two couple of hounds; an otter had been there a few days before. Went over by Ribchester Bridge, and found an otter (Bellman) at Stone Hole; disturbed it very little and came away.

May 28th. Threw off at Cow Bridge, near Long Preston. Found an otter in a drain. James was taken ill and bled dreadfully at the nose, etc., which threw a great damp upon the sport till the doctor had pronounced him out of immediate danger. After about five hours' difficult work, we got the otter out and let it go unmolested into the Ribble. After an animated swim of two hours and ten minutes, the hounds ran into her on the open field as she was crossing to get into another drain which was stopped; she was quite beat. A bitch otter about sixteen pounds. There were many officers out from Burnley.

June 7th. Threw off at Bolton Roags, on the Hodder. Had a good trail about Doeford Bridge and found in a drain in the meadow at Stakes. Went purposely forward to Whitewell for the sake of having a trail; then returned, and, putting all the hounds up but two couple, we dug the otter out. We swam it a short time, and called off.

June 17th. Threw off at Llangollen. Found a bitch otter at Lloyd's drain at Ragget. Let it go over the field into the river. Swam it five and a half hours, and called off at dark without killing. Stayed at Corwen.

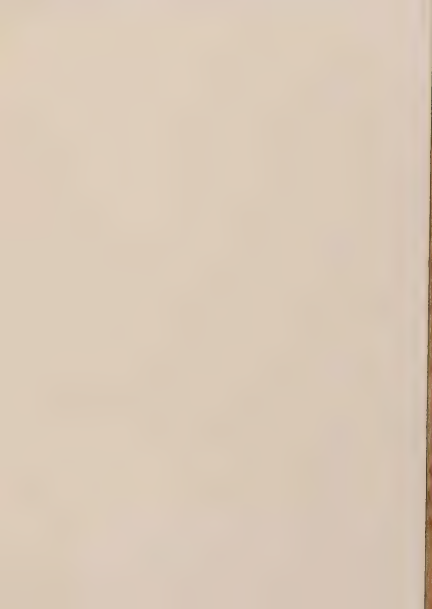
June 18th. Had a good trail down for about two miles and a half, but could not find. Found two cubs which the hounds worried, about rather more than half-way to Llangollen. Supposed they belonged to an old bitch otter which had been trapped the week before, a little lower down by Mr. Reed's keeper. Crowner was lock-jawed, took a stick out of his mouth which was fast in his upper jaw.

June 19th. Thought we found an otter at Corwen Deep, but made nothing of it.

June 20th. Thursday. Tried from Corwen up the river; had a cold trail which kept improving near Bala Lake. Tried round the lake and found a fine dog otter, twenty-four pounds weight, in the Lather river, about a hundred and fifty yards from the lake. After a swim of two hours and a half, old Ringwood seized the otter in the stream, and walked out with him in his mouth to the delight of all. Crowner bit me during the swim. Stayed all night at Bala; good quarters. Rev. Courtney Smith, J. Bowdon, and Wade were out.

June 21st. Returned to Corwen. Made Crowner away, as he was too weak to walk far.

June 22nd. Had the part where I was bitten (which was a mere scratch) cut out and well cauterized; then tried down the river. Theo. Chew was taken suddenly ill of an attack in the brain; he was bled with a pen-knife by the Rev. Courtney Smith. The doctors were afraid of typhoid. Sent Theo. home the day but one after. Had my wound re-examined and re-cut by Mr. Smart, of Llangollen, the same evening.





"TEERUM," 1832.

June 24th. Came off to Liverpool with Maxwell, Bowdon, and Smith. Andrew set off home with the hounds.

August 29th. Threw off at Hacking Hall. Had a good trail from Sale Wheel to Elston Hall, where we found (Bellman) a fine bitch otter at the low end of the deep. Swam it four hours, and the hounds ran into it in the stream below Samlesbury Hall. It was a good deal seen, which suited the gentlemen from Stonyhurst, who remained to the end. The fixture was on purpose for them. They would get back to Stonyhurst by seven o'clock. James Fort and two other officers from Burnley were out.

September 11th. Threw off at Sawley Bridge. Had a good trail to above Adam's Hole. Returned and found in a drain opposite Gisburn Park (Ragman). Pincher went right to it at first, but the otter got into a wet part of the drain where he could not follow, and we had a good deal of digging. At last she bolted out and gave us an excellent swim of an hour and a half, having had a hair-breadth escape, especially in the mill race. By good luck she contrived to get into a drain just below the weir, over Ribble (though dead beat). And it was with the general wish we did not dig her out. This was a most extraordinary sharp otter. Colonel Scarlett, James Fort, and several of the Fifth Dragoons were out, and Taylor, Hall, my brother John, etc., and all were delighted.

September 28th. Threw off at Pathorne Bridge. Had a trail down to the lime trees below Gisburn Mill Dam, and found a bitch otter. Swam her and hunted her on land for two hours, and ran her into the stream at last. We could have killed her much sooner, but made the most sport we could with her; she was a particularly good swimming otter; fifteen pounds weight.

December 5th. Having sent James Westell with four couple of hounds and a couple of terriers to beyond Preston the evening before, we threw off in Salwick Brook, about eleven o'clock, and after a very short trail hunted an otter into an arch Culvert about a quarter of a mile in length, into which there were two or three by-drains passing under the road. After a good deal of difficulty, we found exactly where the road was, and sacked him beautifully and brought him home in the

Whitechapel. He was a dog otter, about nineteen pounds weight. We had some famous sport with him the day after at Alsprings with some young hounds, and then let him go into Calder.

1845.

May 3rd. Met at Gisburn. Had a trail from Pathorne Bridge along Preston Deepes; dug a considerable time in a field much used by otters on the Rathmell side of the river, but could do no good. Had a sharp walk home. Captain Bell, J. Fort, J. Aspinall, etc., were out. Dined at Gisburn.

May 10th. Threw off at Hacking Boat. Had an excellent trail up Little Ribble to Eastford Bridge, and a cold trail up to Sawley. Did not take much pains to find, as there was no one out.

May 15th. Threw off at Sawley; had a double trail into the Limekiln Hole or Otters' Well, but could not get at it. Captain Hall, etc., from Burnley, out.

May 24th. Threw off at Ribchester Bridge. Tried down to the New Bridge, near Preston. Blank.

May 27th. Threw off at Sawley. Had a fine trail near Gisburn Mill, but could not find.

May 28th. Having left the hounds at Gisburn, tried again, but had no hunt at all. I believe that James had found the otter early the morning before, and that it had crept into some Sty hole and had never stirred. It was bad weather.

June 3rd. Threw off at Caton, on the Lune. Found an otter in the large drain at Wenning Foot; the hounds worried it before it could get out. It was a young dog otter, weighing about thirteen pounds.

June 4th, 5th, and 6th. Tried the Lune between Kirkby Lonsdale and Wenning Foot, but could not find. The weather was exceedingly rough.

June 11th. Met at Altringham. Did not go on account of the grass.

June 17th. Found an otter at Dum Jordan Root, in Little Ribble (Bellman and Danger). It stole down to Hacking Boat, where we swam it four hours and a half, with three and a half couple of hounds. Then it stole through Mitton Wood into Calder, where we left it. Rover offered well. It seemed a fine dog otter.

June 26th. Had an excellent trail from Jumbles to Whalley Abbey. Found in a drain, hit it over a field with the young hounds, and swam him beautifully three hours and a half.

July 21st. Having stopped all the drains, we threw off very early below Cock Bridge, and had a very poor trail to Mitton Wood, where we found an otter lying loose in the cover. We swam it three hours and more, and then called off for fear of killing it.

August 17th. Had an excellent trail heel-way from Calder to above Waddow.

August 29th. Met at Hacking Boat, for the Stonyhurst gentlemen. Hunted an otter heel way to Ree Deep. Returned and found it lying loose in Mitton Wood. Rover hit him abroad beautifully as he was crossing to the hounds in the wood. The otter got into the drain at Hill Hole before we could stop him, though I immediately sent Andrew to do so.

September 4th. Had a good trail with three hounds, to above Whitewell.

September 11th. Had an excellent morning's trail with part of the

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hounds from Hacking Boat to Sunderland Deep. Found, close to the Old Hall, in a very strong root. It went abroad once and returned under the root again.

March 27th. Threw off at Hacking Boat. Had no trail. Tried Hodder Foot, and found immediately, almost opposite the tan yard. Swam him beautifully about half-an-hour, and could have caught him with ease. He worked up little Ribble into the hole at Dum Jordan.

We got him out, but had not much sport afterwards. It was a cold, windy day.

April 20th. Tried Salwick Brook, below Preston, and Kirkham Brook. Blank.

April 24th. Had a cold trail to Whitewell, from Hodder Foot. Gave the Philosophers from Stonyhurst a hunt. Young Berkeley, Bellew, J. Aspinall, and my brother Edmund were there. A bad hunting day.

April 29th. Having sent the hounds the day before to Rathmell, threw off at Long Preston Deep. Hunted an otter into a drain, where he was safe, and swam another one beautifully for about an hour, expecting to kill her immediately. A tremendous hail-storm came on, and no man could find it after. Stayed all night with J. Aspinall, at Hartley's.

April 30th. Threw off at the top of the deep. Hunted the otter right out of the drain, and found it in a small drain below the bridge, near Long Preston. Swam it a short time, when it got into another drain, but little Randy again drove it out, and we killed it soon after. It was sixteen and a half pounds weight. Tried to Sawley.

June 7th. Killed an otter at Hornby, in the Lune. Wasp marked well. Crab died after he got home. Dreadfully hot weather. Dr. Lingard was in his hay. J. Aspinall was with me.

July 7th. Finished my hay.

July 10th. Went to Dublin, Drogheda, etc., to look for otters. Disappointed.

July 28th. Met at Harwood Bridge. The river Wharfe quite up. Had a good trail below the bridge, and old Bellman found at Wood Hall. Swam it an hour or two, but could do no good. A large field out.

July 29th. Threw off at Poole, having heard of an otter at Otley. Trailed it up to Burley Dam, swam it three hours and a half, and worried it beautifully in the wood.

August 24th. Had a trail up Ribble; Bellman found at Kemp Stone Hole. It got into a drain, and followed Randy to the mouth of the drain twice; we saw it, but could not get it out.

August 27th. Had an excellent trail from Hodder Foot to a little below the Paper Mill. Found a fine otter in the strong-hold in the wood. The hounds could not scramble up the place, but we went round by the top and put in the terriers, who marked it directly. Little Randy at last sent him out. It went right down to the deep above the Higher Bridge, without calling, where we recovered it in the wood; we had an excellent swim for about an hour and a half, when the hounds caught him under a root near Bashall Lodge, and but for me would have worried him. In saving him I got bitten by him near the thumb. It seemed about twenty pounds weight.

September 15th. Threw off at Sawley Bridge. Had a cold trail to a little below Long Preston, when we had a rattling hunt to the old favourite drains at the deeps. Little Randy drove the otter out once, but some fools turned it in again by shouting too soon. We dug a long time in vain.

September 16th. Having stayed all night at Wigglesworth, we threw off at the top of the deep, pretty early; found an otter laid amongst some long grass on an island (Bellman and London), swam him beautifully one hour, and killed him, old Ringwood running into him at last.

September 24th. Threw off above Sunderland, came on to a magnificent trail at Stubbins Deep, and hunted him down to Blizzar Rocks; found we had passed him; returned to try a drain, to which the hounds had hunted, and afterwards found him at Jackson Banks, where we swam him two hours and a half, and left him in Stubbins Deep. Could have killed him in half-an-hour with ease. A nice otter.

September 30th. Threw off at Hacking Boat, and trailed an otter from Ribble Bridge, Mitton, up Hodder, to the drain at Lily Holme. After a good deal of digging we managed to sack him. Bowler and Ruler offered exceeding well in the drain. We reached home with the otter by half-past nine. Theo. Chew, Richard Hays and myself were all the party. About twenty-two pounds weight.

October 1st. Having prepared the pond, we turned the otter in, when he made good sport for the young hounds for above an hour; we then called off, and he stole down into a drain at Squire's, where we left him.

October 2nd. Hunted him into the drain at Sewry Barn. The otter was out at Ribchester a few days after.

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April 15th. Hounds set off to Hornby Castle, having previously had a few drills up the river, but no sport.

April 19th. Threw off at Kilgram Bridge at nine o'clock, and Wasp found a fine otter at Ellington Deep. Swam it eight hours and a half and called off, as it was getting dark. The water was exceedingly cold.

April 21st. Met at Kilgram, near Hornby Castle, at nine o'clock. Tried down to Masham; no trail. Returned to Danby Mill, where we found (Ringwood) one of our old friends in one of the small islands. Could have worried him immediately, but let him steal down, being certain of killing him. He was quite beat when he left the root. In about half-an-hour he got under a rotten bank, just above the mill, and we could not effectually dislodge him.

April 22nd. Having left the hounds at . . . Bridge at night, we hunted the otter next day to below Clifton Castle, but could not find him. We had gone down very runningly, and the hounds were jaded.

April 24th. Tried from Low Bridge to the drain in the large pasture opposite Jervaux Abbey; no hunt. Tried up at Middleham Bridge, where they said he had been sealed up; no symptoms. Went to Kilgram Bridge, and never had a touch till we got below Clifton Castle. Had a cold hunt, touching about four times, till we reached some large loose rocks on the Masham side of the river at Hack Fall, where began the morning's trail. We hunted him to a strong root a little above Norton Conyers; it was between four and five o'clock. We should have killed him in an hour, had it been earlier in the day with the sun out. Old Bellman found him beautifully. It got into some stick calling, where he got about an hour's rest, in spite of all our endeavours to dislodge

him. He stole down, and we found him again at the deep above some pits, where we left him, it being between seven and eight o'clock, and the hounds much starved. Had the horsemen tried to keep this otter up the stream, we should have killed easily. A large field, the Duke of Leeds, etc., out.

April 29th. Set off with the Duke from Hornby.

April 30th. Threw off at the ford in the Copeland Waters, near Ewart Park, Northumberland; after a beautiful double trail to the Till, we found a couple of otters at a strong bank below Copeland Mill. After a tremendous deal of digging we succeeded in killing one otter in about six hours. In the meantime, the other had stolen up, and I recovered him beautifully with Bellman and Ragman. We had a merry swim for about half-an-hour; he stole down dead beat, and Colonel Grey's keeper tailed him. And he made a capital fight. He weighed twenty-two pounds; the other weighed fifteen pounds. The Duke of Leeds, etc., out.

May 1st. Tried up the Beaumont; had a cold trail where the river Colledge Burn runs into the Beaumont, but did not find.

May 3rd. Tried up the Beaumont a long way. Had a cold trail above and below the tunnel, but could not find. Hearing of an otter in the river Till, we set off by Wooler for Westwood Bridge. The Duke of Leeds got two post chaises for men and hounds. It was between three and four o'clock when we reached the Till. About a hundred yards from our starting point we got upon a red-hot trail, which we hunted about a mile up the river. We tried back, and Finder and Ruler found the otter about a quarter past five, under a hollow bank. They kept it going beautifully, for it was very rooty, till about half-past seven, when it stole down; then we had as cheery a swim till dark, as could be wished. We called off at a quarter past eight. The otter dead beat, and the hounds hardly to be got away.

May 4th. Went with the Duke of Leeds and Lord John Scott to Newton. The hounds followed the day after to Kirk Bank, a shooting box of Lord John's, where the Kail joins the Tiviot.

May 6th. Threw off at the foot of the Kail. Had an excellent double trail for about four miles up; tried back, but could not find. There was a tunnel underground, which connected this river with the Tiviot, where I believe we missed this otter. This we did not know of till the next day. Not being able to find in the Kail, we got some luncheon at Kirk Bank, and tried up the Tiviot with a cold trail. We found at Mount Tiviot (the Marquis of Lothian's), in a large mill dam, where the chances looked much against us, the water being very cold, with a breeze upon it. After swimming it a short time, it stole into a drain leading up to the house. They put in a little terrier, and out came two otters, so they said. After swimming a short time, Ruler marked up the drain, and we thought the otter had gone in again; so we got a sack to the drain mouth, in order to catch him alive, and take him to a better place, but it was no go. We could not find anywhere in the pool, so we partially stopped the water going into the mill race. After some time, Finder marked him in a very strong root. We got him out, and had some capital fun with him for about an hour. It made several attempts to get over land into the pool, but could not manage it. It was a capital place for young hounds, being only about knee deep. At last old Ringwood brought her out in gallant style. This was the largest bitch otter I ever killed. Twenty-six and a half pounds weight, when got home.

May 7th. The hounds rested. Explored up the river to Chesters.

May 8th. Met at Kirk Bank at seven o'clock. Tried down the Tiviot, had a good trail towards the lower end of it, but called off at the bridge near Kelso, not wishing to have a mob; crossed over to the Tweed, tried up it about three miles, and Finder found a fine dog otter at Boat Hole, above a rocky place called "The Trows." After swimming him about an hour, he stole into the "Trows," whence after a short time, we got him into the open water below, where he vented twenty or thirty times in the open, and where we could not have lost him, had the day been sunny and the water low. However, we never could find him again, either up or down, high or low. There was a built up jetty of stonework a little below where he was last seen, and by which the water ran so

rapidly, that the hounds could not try it properly, where he possibly might have got in. However, what with the day being bad and the river high, he beat us completely. We tried up three or four miles for a fresh one, but did not find, though the ground was very likely. Had bread and cheese sent from Sir T. McDougal Brisbane, whose house stands just above the Tweed.

May 9th. Sunday afternoon. Called with the Duke of Leeds upon Lord J. Scott, at his residence, where he was laid up with a broken leg and dislocated ankle. There was no chapel nearer than Berwick, twenty-four miles off. I should like to have been on my way home, but the Duke had promised to give Major St. Paul another day on our way home.

May 10th. Arrived at Ewart Park. We looked out in different directions, but could find nothing likely for the morrow. The Major's man said he had sealed an otter fresh below Westwood Bridge, in the Till. So we fixed to meet at Doddington Bridge, at six in the morning, as I had to be off by twelve o'clock to London, to support Mr. Taylor in opposing the Preston and West Riding Junction Railway.

May 11th. Met at Doddington Bridge. Blank. Left Newcastle at ten, and was in London at ten next morning. The hounds came home by Hornby Castle.

June 8th. Trailed an otter into a drain near Whalley Bridge, but could not get it out.

June 9th. Having stopped all the drains near Whalley, threw off at Whalley Bridge (rather frosty, bad hunting); trailed an otter down Calder, through Mitton Wood, and found him in a drain at Kemp Stone Hole, above Kemp Stone Limekilns. He had kept on the stones in the middle almost all the way to Waddow, and crossed the dry land below the lime tanks to above the Foot Bridge. Little Randy bolted him in a moment, and after swimming him about an hour and a quarter, and after tailing him, we left him; a dog otter, about eighteen pounds weight. Teerum's first introduction; he behaved very well. We had the old hounds coupled up, and the young ones had a fair chance.

June 15th. Having sent Theo. Chew with the hounds to Mt. Horsefall's the day before, we threw off at Poole, on the Wharfe, at nine o'clock. Had a cold trail to Harewood Deep, where it improved much and kept mending as we got below the bridge, where we had an excellent hot trail, and Random and Ruler found about a mile above Wood Hall. Had a delightful swim for about an hour, when Rover and Finder caught him at the river side, and the rest ran into him. A young dog otter. He showed himself very often, and everybody seemed gratified. A large field of friends out. G. Fox, Vavasour, and the Misses Salvin saw the kill. Returned with Walter and Charles to Hawksworth Hall for the night.

June 16th. Threw off at Bolton Bridge. The water rather high; tried to Kilnsey. Had a poor trail about Burnsall Bridge. Sent James on to try in the morning; no trail. Dined at Bolton with Walter and Charles, then came home.

July 26th. Sent the hounds to Up Hall, near Kirkby Lonsdale.

July 27th. Drove up to a public house near where the Rathey joins the Lune. Tried up towards Sedberg; no sign of an otter. Drove back to Tunstall with a couple of hounds, and had an excellent trail in the evening about Hornby Bridge. Hunted it into both drains, but could not tell which it was in. Had them both stopped in the night.

July 28th. No hunt; dug for him in vain.

July 29th. No hunt, and no sign of any other otter. Tried down by Penny Bridge, and got home by three o'clock.

August 4th. Met at Gisburn. Had a cold trail to Adam's Hole and across to Cow Bridge; then we had a good trail, but could not find.

August 28th. Ruby whelped ten whelps by Bellman. Kept three light brown dogs.

August 30th. Arrived with the hounds at Harewood House.

August 31st. Threw off at Harewood Bridge. Found an otter in the deep; swam him six hours and a half and killed him gallantly. Weight, eighteen pounds. A large field out. A beautiful day.

September 2nd. Met at Beilby Grange. Found immediately, about a quarter of a mile from the house on the opposite side. Had a swim of nine hours (a cold, windy day); were very near catching him in a drain and then in a hold in the wood, when we found a fresh otter, and they both took across the country to the long deep below the mill. We could have killed for certain, had not night come on. Got back to dinner at Harwood.

September 10th. Sent the hounds to Gisburn to show Lord Ribblesdale a hunt.

September 16th. Threw off a little above Pathorne Bridge; found an otter, but the water was quite up; a tremendously stormy day.

October 18th. Took a few hounds to Sawley in the whitechapel; had an excellent trail from above Bolton Hall up to a little above Adam's Hole, where we called off, still having a capital hunt.

November. I promised one sovereign a head for all otters sent from Ireland unhurt to Alsprings by . . . and to pay the expense of carriage.

December 1st. Killed four woodcock with my own gun.

December 8th. Killed three brace of Partridges with my own gun.

December 24th. Gathered three beautiful primroses in full flower, above Dean Bridge in Great Harwood.

1848.

March 22nd. Threw off at Mr. Dewhurst's, near Altringham, Cheshire. Had some excellent trailing up Mr. Egerton's park and round his lake, but did not find.

March 23rd. Had an excellent trail in the Boundary Brook, and found in a very rooty place near Mr. Dewhurst's; swam it two hours and a half, but could not kill. The water very cold, and the hounds tired.

April 28th. Tried with a few hounds down from Langholm Lodge to the levels below the Hollows in the Esk. Found there was an otter about, and had all the drains stopped for the day after.

April 29th. Threw off at the bridge ; had a trail down Esk and up Liddel. A cold bad hunting morning, and the river kept rising, with odd snowy showers. Tried up nearly to Lamiton Levels, and back to near Netherby, but did not find.

May 1st. Sent the hounds to Kirk Bank.

May 2nd. Tried Kail. Blank.

May 4th. Had a cold trail up the Tiviot, and Finder found a fine dog otter at Chesters (Mr. Egerton's) ; swam him one hour and killed him ; he fought gloriously. Twenty-six pounds. weight

May 6th. Finding an otter had gone up the day before, tried the Tiviot. Got a decent trail at Mount Tiviot up the river ; found it was a double. Returned and killed a fine bitch otter, sixteen pounds weight, in the sluice of the mill, in three quarters of an hour.

May 8th. Met at " The Trows " on the Tiviot, had a cold trail to Mertoun (Lord Poleworth's) ; thought we had found just above the house in a badger hole ; no go. Got near land, and then tried on till we came to below Gladeswood (Colonel Spotteswood's), where the hounds hunted him into a drain. Little Randy marked, and Wasp afterwards got to it. Randy afterwards came out with it into the Tweed. Swam it one hour and a half, when James tailed him, and we worried him in gallant style ; twenty-three pounds and a half. Lunched at Colonel Spotteswood's, and sent the hounds to the Duke of Buccleuch's kennels at St. Boswell's, for the night.

May 9th. Met at Lauder Foot, where James found an otter just as he went to try. It had stolen down the mill race and was very bad to find till the water was lowered, when the hounds worried it directly ; about fifteen pounds weight. Tried up to Mertoun ; left the hounds at St. Boswell's.

May 10th. Lord J. Scott took out his pack at daylight in the Jed, and found three otters ; killed a young one, and could make nothing of the others, so he sent an express for me to bring my hounds. We got there about two o'clock ; found the otters in a puzzling mill dam, just

above Jedburgh ; swam them above two hours, and killed the old bitch in the mill race. Had just coupled up the hounds, when a young otter was seen in the dam. Tried again and caught it alive beautifully. There was an immense mob out, and they would have it killed. James held it awhile by the tail but they would not let it be put in the sack. James at last, with great difficulty, got into a shippen with it, and we sacked it. The mob threatened to break in the door, and there was a tremendous row. At last we got them quiet, and took the otter to Kirk Bank in the carriage. I never witnessed such brutal behaviour.

May 13th. Received information of four otters up the Kail ; tried the whole river. Blank.

May 16th. Went to Sir G. Houston Boswell, Blackadder House. The otter got into the drain by the house.

May 17th. Found the bitch at the garden wall. Killed the old dog. 25½ lbs. weight.

September 6th. Threw off at Harwood Bridge. Three hours swim.

September 7th. Found at Addingham. Eight and a half hours swim. Killed it. 24½ lbs. weight.

September 29th. Threw off at Long Preston Deep, with three couple of hounds ; caught a bitch in a drain below Cow Bridge, and brought it home. This otter was killed a week afterwards.

1849.

March 16th. Had a good trail from Bolton Hall to the drain above Gisburn Mill. The hounds could hunt the water off the otter, but we could not get to it.

April 20th. Found an otter in a drain in the Yarrow, between Gillibrand and Pinnock Deep ; swam her about one hour and a half, and killed her.

May 4th. Had some good trailing below Long Preston, but did not find.

June 5th. Threw off at Corwen, and killed a young dog otter at the top of Crogen Deep. Tried up to Bala, but did not find.

June 6th. Had some excellent trailing above and below Crogen, but did not find.

June 8th. Found in the Deep at Crogen, but could not manage it without endless digging. Tried down to Llangollen. I think we found about four miles above, but it was too late in the day to do any good with it.

1850.

March 20th. Trailed an otter from Cock Bridge to near Carr Hall, but could not get it out of the Boat Hole.

March 21st. Hunted the same otter down Calder and through Mitton Wood to Dum Jordan, in Little Ribble, where we put him abroad. Swam him two hours and a half, and killed him below Hacking Hall; weighed 23½ lbs. Quite like a summer's day.

May 4th. Met at Mitton Bridge. Had a trail down Showley Wood, where Finder found and went abroad with him under a root. Swam him three quarters of an hour, and called off for fear of killing him. A bitter cold day. Aspinall and Fenton out.

May 30th. Found an otter at Sale Wheel. Swam him three hours and a half, and called off; it never left the rock edges. A very hot day.

June 4th. Threw off at Poole, on the Wharfe. Had scarcely a touch till we found a bitch otter under Wood Hall (Mr. Scott's). We had hardly swum her a quarter of an hour, when she took to the wood, where the hounds ran into her. Treadwell (huntsman to the Bramham hounds) headed her on horseback, as she was crossing for the river, or she would have gained the water again. A bitch otter about fourteen pounds weight. Tried forward and found another otter at Wetherby Dam; swam it three hours but could not manage it. A large field out, and the day most oppressively hot.

June 5th. Thought the otter would have gone up, but it had turned again at Linton. Took the hounds in a sort of yeoman waggon from

Harwood Bridge to Burley. No hunt. Arthur Lascelles and Whittaker were with me.

June 19th. Trailed an otter from Dum Jordan, below Mitton Bridge, to a root above Hodder Place. Bowler found it. Swam it about an hour, coupling up the old hounds; ran it for some time in the wood, and called off. It looked like a young dog otter, about fifteen pounds weight.

June. Jack Whitaker found an otter at Blizzar Rocks, with Finder and Rover.

July 22nd. Met at Caton on the Lune. Hunted an otter into a drain at Quernmore Park. Did not try to get it out. Stayed at Lancaster with J. Aspinall and Vivian Walmesley.

July 23rd. Found an otter in the deep below the Penny Bridge. Swam it three hours and killed it. A dog otter, twenty pounds.

July 24th. Stayed all night at Hornby. Got a bitch otter, and one cut out of the drain at Greta Foot, near Tunstall. Brought them home alive.

August 2nd. Found an otter in a drain opposite Martholm Ease (Pepper), up the brook which runs from the Altham coal-pits by Dunkirk. Did not wish to hurt it, as it was wanted for practising young hounds.

1851.

May 25th. Found an otter at Mount Tiviot, but were beaten by the terriers being in danger of being worried.

May 27th. Found an otter at Rutherford (Lord Lauderdale's), and killed it at "The Trows." Twenty-three pounds weight.

May 29th. Found and killed two otters at Springwood Park. One was a dog, twenty-five pounds weight, the other a bitch, seventeen pounds weight.

June 2nd. Found at Chesters in a drain, and killed at six o'clock.

June 25th. Had an excellent trail from Bashall Lodge to Stone Hole Deep. Found at Ree Deep. Swam it one hour; lost it some time and again swam it another hour beautifully, and called off. Water high. Some keen gentlemen out from Manchester and Liverpool.

1852.

April 13th. Met at Ribchester. Had a beautiful swim at Blizzar Rocks, for one hour and ten minutes, and called off ; a beautiful day.

April 20th. Found in a drain near Henthorn Limekilns, and let it get down to Waddow Deep ; swam it an hour and a half, and killed it ; a bitch otter, fifteen pounds weight. I never saw hounds behave better.

May 3rd. Threw off at Corwen. Had an excellent trail about Ragget and down below the Half-Way House. Returned, and found two otters in some calling near Corwen. Swam the old bitch two hours and a half and killed her ; seventeen pounds weight. Swam the other otter some time, but could not dislodge it from a plane-tree root.

May 4th. Tried for the other otter but could not find it.

May 5th. Found another bitch otter with Dashwood and Bellman, before breakfast in Corwen Deep. Tried for a full hour before we could find it. Swam it an hour and a half, and killed it sharply with the young hounds.

May 6th. Had a magnificent trail from Crogen Bridge to Mr. Jones's, below Bala. Found him in a strong place below the house ; bolted him twice ; swam him twenty minutes and killed him gallantly. He was twenty-two pounds weight ; a very old otter.

May 18th. Had an excellent trail about the foot of Little Ribble, but were not certain which root it was in ; did not want to find it.

May 22nd. Threw off at Osbaldeston Hall. Found at Jackson Banks. Tried to Elston Boat Hole, as we did not want a swim, and the otter was not a very large one, we cut up to Ribchester Bridge, and had an excellent trail to Hacking Boat drain, where Whiskers immediately bolted a fine dog otter. After swimming half an hour, he stole into a large drain at Jumbles (Bowler after h.m.), where some men were working, and which was open in a dozen places. We had great work to save him from being worried, as he stole back to the Ribble over the land.

1853.

March 31st. Trailed an otter from Hyndburn Foot to Hacking Hall drain. Caught it by the "pother," as it was fighting the terriers at the upper end of the drain, and let it go over the bank into the Ribble. Swam it for about an hour, and then called off, it being dead beat, and the water extremely cold. This otter appeared about twenty pounds weight. Wilkinson was out.

April 15th. Threw off at Mitton Bridge, and found an otter about fifteen pounds, at Titty Wheel, Hodder Place. Swam it about an hour, and left it below the old bridge, not wishing to kill it. Porter and ten of the philosophers were out, and much pleased.

May 6th. Had an excellent trail in the Clwyd, starting from St. Asaph. Found an immense otter about a mile above Denbigh Bridge. Swam it two hours and called off. Could not get any bread for the hounds or anything for ourselves. Mrs. Lomax out all day. The water rather high. Mrs. Lomax had to walk to Denbigh (two miles) and then drive to Rhyl.

May 7th. Tried up towards Ruthin, and afterwards down the Clywd. Did not find. Cold and snowy.

May 9th. Tried the Elwy (from St. Asaph) for several miles; were beaten off by several showers. The river was rising fast.

May 10th. Dined at St. Beuno's College.

May 11th. Had an excellent trail from Clwyd Bridge, near St. Asaph, to Rhyddlan Castle, and found an otter below the footbridge in the Elwy, above St. Asaph. Swam it a considerable time, but had no chance of blood, the water being quite too high. Lloyd Moston, N. Blundell, etc., out.

May 12th. Threw off at a bridge about six miles up the Elwy, and found an otter opposite to an island (Vengeance and Pincher). Swam it an hour and called off. The river quite too high. All St. Beuno's College out.

May 16th. Threw off at the same bridge, and found at the junction of the rivers Elwy and Aled. After some slow work it stole down; we then had a merry swim for about an hour. The collegians were obliged to leave when the otter stole up, and we had a splendid hunt for about an hour and a half, when he took to a dry root and we killed him. Twenty-two pounds weight.

June 2nd. Threw off at Hornby Bridge. Hunted a fine dog otter into a drain below Tunstall. Got him out with a great deal of difficulty. Swam him in the brook for a couple of hours with a few young hounds, and ran into him in a willow bed, on the banks of the Lune. He weighed twenty-five pounds. T. Trappes and a good field from Thurland Castle and Lancaster were out. Singer and Fountain offered well.

June 3rd. Had a double trail about Hornby Bridge, and in trying up, got on to a fresh trail at Greta Foot, and had a beautiful hunt to a rock-hold, a little below Kirkby Bridge. Left Jack with the terriers to try to bolt him, which was said to be impossible, whilst we tried up above. However, Tartar and Pincher soon brought him out, and we had a magnificent swim of three hours, all Kirkby Lonsdale being there to see the fun, and highly delighted. James Westell caught him by the "pother," a little below the bridge, quite dead beat, and a glorious shout and worry we had. He weighed twenty-four pounds. They wanted to give me a public dinner at Kirkby Lonsdale, but I declined the honour.

June 23rd. Threw off at the top of Bolton Roughs, and had a good trail to above Whitewell. Left an otter and cubs about Bolton Roughs, not wishing to disturb them. This was a sultry day, and what was very singular was that the three men and myself were all taken with a sort of queer sensation at precisely the same time, just at the turn of the river Hodder, above the foot of Loud and below Stakes. We felt nothing more after a few minutes. There was heavy thunder in the evening.

August 9th. Threw off at Ribchester Bridge. Had a good trail down to Jackson's Banks, where we came on to a still better hunt, and found a couple of otters at the turn at Blizzar Rocks. Caught them

both alive, brought them home, turned them out next day at Hacking Boat. They were two bitch otters about ten pounds weight each.

August 22nd. Threw off at St. Asaph, and tried up the Elwy nearly to Llanfair. Thought we found about a mile below the meeting of the rivers, but it was no go. Returned down the river, and hunted an otter into a rock-hold. Pincher could mark him, and seemed close to him, but at last could not be heard. The otter came out next day, but Pincher was never seen after. Left word that I should give a sovereign to anyone who brought him to the Plough Inn, St. Asaph.

August 24th. Threw off near Mr. Maddox's, in the Clwyd. All trail together. Hunted up to about two miles below Ruthin. Crossed over to the Clywedog, and found (Bellman) a sharp bitch otter. Swam her two hours and killed her. Mrs. Lomax, Herman Walmesley and T. Trappes were out.

August 26th. Threw off at Pont-y-Gwyddell. Had a cold trail to above the meeting of the rivers, whence we had a capital hunt to about three miles above Llanfair. Found two otters (Vengeance and Diamond); killed the old dog immediately; he weighed about twenty-one pounds. Had some excellent sport with the bitch in and out of the water, when all at once the water rose with a thunder-storm, and we were beaten, after a swim of several hours.

August 27th. Had a capital trail, but did not find.

September 7th. Met at the Red Pump, at nine o'clock, and threw off just above Bashall Lodge, where we had an excellent double trail of rather a small otter. The hunt grew colder below the Paper Mill, where we got on to a fine dog otter, sealing right up, but two days gone. When we reached Lily Holme drain, the scent improved, and we had a capital trail up to Knowlmore, where Bellman found a fine dog otter. He soon stole into a large drain, and after sinking about three holes, we bolted him at the higher end over the fields (Teerum). The hounds were nearly killing him, when he reached the river, as he was so beaten. However, we kept them back, and he gave us an excellent swim of one hour and twenty minutes in Pool Wheel; and they ran into him as he

tried to get into the drain. He weighed twenty-three and a half pounds. Edward and Oswald Petre, N. le Gendre Starkie, and Walter Weld saw through the whole hunt, and were delighted. Peel and his friends joined us just as we found. We all dined at Knowlmere, and were treated most hospitably, and then walked over the fields to the Red Pump.

September 16th. Sent Jack Whittaker and Charles Saynor, to try to find an otter above Padiham. They found it near Marsden, but thought it could not be caught as the water rose fast. I sent James Westell in the evening to disturb it with a couple of hounds, and to remain all night. However, when he got to Marsden, he found the water much fallen, and he and Frank Adamson had the good luck to catch the otter and bring it home to Clayton by ten o'clock. It seemed about nine pounds weight.

September 17th. Found at eight o'clock in the evening that the otter had escaped. Had a most puzzling trail into Hyndburn, and up Calder, nearly to Altham Church. Had hunted him into the by-wash from the new Altham Engine, where we at last found him, little Ned Broadley and Abraham Rushton going down with candles and driving him out. He swam about half-an-hour in Calder, when we sacked him and brought him home.

1854.

April 1st. Found an otter at Dum Jordan, the foot of Little Ribble. Swam it five hours, and caught it alive near Jumbles. Kept it a few days, and turned it out in the Clough Delf.

April 8th. Found an otter under Moreton Hall, which slipped into a drain below.

April 24th. Threw off at Clwyd Bridge, near St. Asaph; put an otter abroad near some islands, three miles up, but could make nothing of it, after seeing it once.

April 25th. Tried up the Elwy as far as the first deep of the rocks, but found we were hunting heel way. Returned and found an otter in the deep near the junction of the rivers. Swam it three hours, but could not kill, as it was too late in the day.

April 27th. Found another otter in the deeps at the foot of the Clwyd. Swam it slowly for a couple of hours, but could make nothing of it. A rough, windy morning. Tried up the river, the day improving and the hounds trailing keenly. We found a fine dog otter about three quarters of a mile from the bridge, which we swam for three hours merrily, and killed in gallant style. James Westell tailed him as he was resolutely trying to get down the stream. About a dozen from the college were out, and enjoyed the fun amazingly. Hopwood sent the otter, which weighed twenty-four pounds, to be stuffed.

April 28th. Threw off at Pont-y-Doll, on the Elwy, and heard to our disgust, that the keeper had trapped a dog and a bitch otter, one that morning, and the other the night previous. However, we tried up, and after a beautiful trail of about two miles, found three beautiful young otters, about a mile below the junction of the rivers. We caught beautifully and transplanted to Clayton Hall. We got the dog otter trapped by the keeper, and swam him at St. Asaph under the Elwy Bridge, to the great delight of the townspeople. It showed more fun than we expected; twenty-two pounds weight.

April 29th. Tried up the Clwyd some miles, and then down to Rhuddlan Castle, but did not find.

May 1st. Threw off below Mr. Wynne's, about ten miles up the Elwy; passed an otter, having hunted it heel way. Returned and found at a strong place, where we lost an otter last year. Killed it at last, after a deal of digging; a very sharp bitch otter of fifteen pounds weight. Captain Hopwood sent it to be stuffed. Lunched with Wynne.

May 2nd. Met at Pont-y-Doll, where James Westell thought he had found an otter, but it appeared to have lain there the day before. Tried down to St. Asaph, but did not find. All the college and T. Trappes out.

May 15th. Caught two otters at Carr Hall. Brought the younger otter home, and worried the old bitch, after a great deal of drain work, and two swims with it in the pond nearest the river in front of Carr. Swam it the latter time above an hour.

May 23rd. Met at Ribchester Bridge. Had a capital trail as far as Blizzar Rocks. Tried as far as Red Scar, where there was no hunt. Returned to Jackson Banks, where we thought we had left an otter. Tried back up to the Troughs, did not find.

May 30th. Threw off at Hacking Boat. Tried down to Jackson Banks; did not find. Hunted a large otter down.

June 6th. Threw off at Mitton Bridge at eight o'clock. Had no trail till we reached Hacking Hall drain, when the terriers put abroad a fine dog otter. We called off and sent word to Stonyhurst for the scholars to come and see the sport. In about three quarters of an hour they all came, and we hunted him down to Ree Deep, where we swam him about half-an-hour, when he stole into the wood near the brook leading up to Stonyhurst ponds. After running him some time in the wood, I got the hounds off, as he was blown, and I wanted him to get into Ribble. In about ten minutes we uncoupled the hounds again; and instead of taking the river he had cut away below Hurst Green, and right away for Chew Bank Wood, where they ran him to ground under a hollow bank by the brook side. We again coupled up the hounds, and gave him several minutes law, to reach Ribble, but he had no idea of it. We tried the hounds on again, and they ran into him in a small potato and mangold-wurzel garden, pointing towards Hough Deep. He weighed twenty-six pounds. Charles Tempest and young Lawson each took a pad to Stonyhurst. Sent the skull to the Museum at Stonyhurst.

June 10th. Tried from Hacking Boat down to Jackson Banks, but did not find.

July 26th. Threw off at Hornby Bridge, on the Lune, and found a bitch otter beautifully, at a deep below the foot of the river Greta; swam it one hour and a half and killed it. T. Trappes, some gentlemen from Manchester and Liverpool, and a number from Kirkby Lonsdale much pleased. Had a cold trail forward to near Underley Park, whence we had a good hunt as far as Mr. Moore's, about two miles below the meeting of the rivers, but did not find, though there was one not far off. Lunched with Moore, and got back to Hornby at half-past ten. Took a coach from Kirkby Lonsdale Bridge for hounds and all.

July 27th. Started at Wenning Bridge, and had an excellent trail down to the long deep above Halton; dug some time, and then found we had hunted heel way. Returned by Hafton Wood, and found a nice dog otter (twenty pounds) in a drain in the pasture field over the Lune Bridge from Hornby. James Westell had hunted it into this drain in the morning early with old London. Nudger and little Randy soon marked him, and he bolted with little trouble. James stuck to him till we got a sack. We brought it home next day (Friday), and turned it out in the meadow. It was killed in Altham the Wednesday night after, quite poor.

July 28th. Had a good hunt in the river Greta up to Black Burton. Thought we left it in the levels.

August 17th. Threw off at Ribchester Bridge. Had an excellent trail to below Red Scar. Returned and found an otter at Stone Hole; swam it one hour and a half and called off. Wilkinson and T. Trappes out.

September 5th. Threw off at Bettys-y-Coed, above Llanrwst. Had some good trailing up to the mouth of the Lledr, and then crossed up above the Swallow Falls, and hunted up the Llygwy to Capel Curig. Did not find.

September 6th. Threw off at Bettys-y-Coed, and found a fine dog otter, with half his tail off, about a mile above Llanrwst. Killed him in about an hour, and tried down to where the tide comes up, but did not find. Mrs. Lomax, Herman Walnesley, Edward and Oswald Petre, etc., out.

September 7th. Tried down to Llanrwst, and back up the Conway above the junction of the Lledr, but could get no further for the rocks. We left a couple of otters here. Tried the Lledr with a capital trail, till we came to another impassable place. Returned to Capel Curig, and sent the hounds to Llanfair, on the Elwy.

September 11th. Threw off at Pont-y-Doll. All the college out from St. Beuno's. Had a brilliant trail, and found at a mill race (Vengeance) about a mile and a half above. After seeing it vent a few times, could

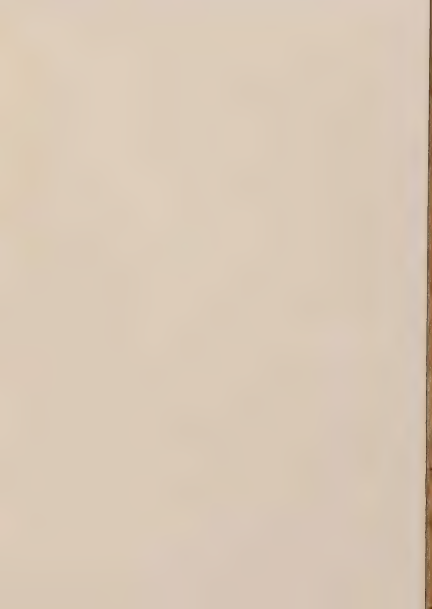
not find it, and could not persuade the obstinate miller to stop his mill for a few minutes, or to lower the water a trifle. Left it, and tried up to Llanfair for a fresh otter. Did not find another, but returning, got the miller, at the mill above where the otter was, to stop his mill for a time. At last Famous found our friend under an old stub, where she had been during the whole of our absence. After puzzling us for a considerable time near the lower end of the mill race, she stole up, and went right up the wood into a rabbit or fox hole. After getting a spade, Crab and the otter came out together, and a famous crash there was into the river. There was a strong looking root, where it disappeared for a while; but after James Westell once poked her out, we had a splendid, merry swim for about half-an-hour. She took to the wood several times, and was run into at last by the hounds, to the delight and amid the enthusiasm of all. Mrs. Lomax, Wilkinson, Mostyn, etc., saw the whole. Alfred Weld caught the otter by the tail, and fell over head with it.

September 12th. Met at St. Asaph's Bridge on the Elwy, at seven o'clock. Had a splendid double trail of two otters to some calling below the next bridge. Thought it a very bad place to dislodge them; so we tried up for a fresh otter, as far as Pont-y-Doll, but without success. Came back determined to get at our old friends, but could not manage it. The Collegians, Watkin, and Mrs. Lomax out.

September 13th. Had a good trail in the Clwyd with Ainsworth and Wilkinson to a root in the Park, but were not quite certain that it was in. Tried back down to the junction, but did not find. Dined at St. Asaph, and got home at half-past ten to Clayton Hall.

October 5th. Threw off at Mitton Bridge at eight o'clock. Some gentlemen from Liverpool and Manchester, and Thomas Garnett were out. It was a wild, windy morning, but the day improved about ten o'clock. Had a good down bank trail considering the weather, to Jackson Banks, below Ribchester, where we put an otter abroad (Ragman); we swam it nearly three hours and called off as the gentlemen were tired, and the hounds had done enough, as there was a cold wind.

October 12th. Threw off at Mitton Bridge. Had a good trail to above Hodder Place, where we found the otter had come down the river.





HINGWOOD

LAMBTON

FINDER

SINGER

HANTON

ROYAL

LOWELL

WICKHAM

LOFTY

FINCH

SOME OF THE PACK ABOUT 1843.

Cut across to Sykes's Farm, and found an otter at the stream below Ree Deep. Swam it about twenty minutes, when it stole into the wood, and finding that several of the hounds had been bitten, and that the otter was not a large one, we got all the hounds up but about two couple, and kept hunting it above an hour more, before it took to the river, when we called off, as we were afraid of killing it. Several of the Stonyhurst gentlemen were out, but did not show as much blood as their brethren in Wales.

1855.

March 5th. Sent James to Thurland Castle, on the Lune, for an otter, accidentally caught in a rat trap, baited with a rabbit in the frost. It died the night he got there.

March 31st. Had a trail from Hyndburn Foot to Ree Deep, and called off; very cold and frosty.

April 19th. Threw off at Roach Bridge, on the Darwen. Had an excellent double trail to Moon's Mill. Returned and tried the deep twice over, but could not find. A very large field out, of officers, etc.

April 25th. Threw off at Pont-y-Doll, on the Elwy. Found an otter at a mill dam, about two miles above. Swam her about half-an-hour, and saw her several times and lost her entirely, we thought in some calling.

April 26th. Threw off at Clwyd Bridge, near St. Asaph. Had a good trail up to Ruthin, did not find. Entwistle, Hopwood and St. Beuno's people out.

April 27th. Met at the bridge near Mr. Maddox's, near Denbigh; found a fine otter had come down (James had hunted it from Ruthin); hunted all the way left of the Clwyd, below St. Asaph, but did not find.

April 28th. Threw off about ten miles up the Elwy. Tried down three miles above the village; no trail. There was a good hunt about a mile below, and the hounds marked hard at a stronghold. Dug a long time, but the otter was not in,

April 30th. Trailed up the Elwy from St. Asaph to a mill above Pont-y-Doll, but could not find. Stopped one or two holes at the rocks coming back, and marked a couple of otters in some strong calling, about a mile above St. Asaph, but could not stir them.

May 1st. Had the most splendid trail ever heard of, of two or three otters up the rocks in the Elwy, where they had all got in. Trailed another otter heel way to a mill, where we had missed one the day before. Returned and hunted to below Rhuddlan. All St. Beuno's College out.

May 21st. Threw off at Hornby Bridge, and found at Tunstall drain. After a good deal of difficulty, got her out, and killed her after some good sport, in the brook with the young hounds. A large field out. Tried up for a couple of miles above Kirkby, but did not find.

May 22nd. Had an excellent double trail above and below Mr. Wright's Farm. Tried the drain all afternoon, but it was not in. Sent James down by train with old London to Halton. He found an otter at the deep below the Penny Bridge, and swam it a short time.

May 23rd. Tried all the lower end of Lune, but could not find. Thought the otter was still in the same deep, but could not get it properly, on account of the quantity of wood lying over the brook.

May 31st. Met at Ribchester Bridge, and knowing there was a good hunt at the foot of Calder, went up to it. Hit the otter through Mitton Wood and hunted him into a drain at Dum Jordan at the foot of Little Ribble. Lincoln thought it was in, but not being quite sure it had not gone from there, tried up Hodder to the Higher Bridge, returned and bolted him with the terriers, letting the young hounds run him and fight him into Ribble. He had not swam him ten minutes before he contrived to steal into the lower end of the drain, unseen by anybody. We bolted him again and he was never seen till we recovered him at Hacking Boat Hole, whence we swam him down to the stream above Ree Deep, where James Westell tailed him out (he was dead beat). It was one of the coldest and roughest days I ever swam an otter in. The hounds had all to do, and did it well. The otter weighed nearly twenty-six pounds. A large field was out at first, but only a

few remained till the finish. Wilkinson and Anderton, of Haighton, remained. Old Finder recovered him beautifully amongst some cobs, where he had been lost some time. We swam him seven hours and a half.

June 6th. Met at the Higher Bridge and made the best of our way to Doeford Bridge, where we had a tolerable trail of a bitch otter up to Lily Holme drain; thought we left it in a drain below Stakes.

June 12th. Drove from Corwen to Ruthin, with Mrs. Lomax and Mr. Wilkinson, to explore the Clwyd, as the Dee was not hunttable. Took old Bellman with us. Found a double trail about a mile above Ruthin. Lunched and returned.

June 13th. Threw off about a mile below Corwen and had a beautiful trail to the deep above the junction of the Alwen. After running about an hour it stole down to Corwen Deep (the river was very high). After swimming it for some hours it slipped down below the bridge where we swam it well till eight o'clock and called off, as it became very wet, and the hounds had worked admirably. We swam this otter twelve hours. A large field from Liverpool were out, and Mr. and Mrs. Clegg. Sent the hounds home by Ruthin next day.

June 22nd. Threw off at Bolton Roughs in Hodder. Had a good trail to Stakes, thought we had hunted heel way. Tried back and hunted to a root just above the Higher Bridge, where it seemed to have gone.

June 25th. Threw off at Hacking Boat, and had a good trail to below Ribchester Bridge. Found an otter just below Sale Wheel, but the water was too high to do any good with it.

July 4th. A man came from Whalley to say that he had seen an otter that morning about six o'clock, fishing below Chew Mill Call. Took the hounds and found a fine bitch otter at the very spot. Swam her about an hour and a half, when she stole up the mill race. Coupled all the hounds up and caught her with the terriers. Brought her home to try some young terriers, and turned her out at Fletcher Scar in Calder, at night.

July 17th. Threw off at Ribchester Bridge. Had an excellent trail up to a drain at Jumbles, which it had crossed over the fields to get into as the lower end was left walled up. Vengeance went up to it, and came back with a bloody nose, and although we tried an hour and a half, we could not find it, though the hounds could hunt the water off it into Ribble. At last they began to remove some stones which were fitted up at two places above the drain, and out it bolted, unseen by any one. It went right up Ribble, and took to dry land at the lower end of the wood, and crossed the Chew Mill Road and came down into Calder near Hacking Hall, where a man ran after it. They hit it up Calder a short way, but it came on so wet we called off.

July 20th. Mr. Bishop shot a fine bitch otter at Oakenshaw. James Westell had hunted and swam an otter that morning.

August 3rd. Caught a bitch otter in the Loud just above Lea House Chapel, after swimming it four hours. Brought it home.

August 10th. Met at the Higher Bridge, Hodder. Had a good trail from Paper Mill to Doeford Bridge. Did not find.

August 18th. Threw off at Ribchester Bridge, and tried down to Walton. Had a good trail from Blizzar Rocks to the Wooden Bridge, tried back but did not find. A large field out from Blackburn. The hottest day known; a great quantity of grass to cut yet.

August 23rd. Hounds set off to St. Asaph.

August 25th. Threw off at St. Asaph. Found a fine otter in some calling just below the strong place where the pit was made. Kept it going some time and left it in the calling. Tried forward and found a couple of young otters at the mill dam above the bridge, about two miles above Pont-y-Doll. Killed one and caught the other alive and brought it home. All the gentlemen from the college out.

August 27th. Met at the bridge nearest Denbigh, on the Clwyd, and tried up to above Ruthin, where we trailed on otter into the rocks. I walked on to Corwen (ten miles) and the Collegians had about fifteen miles to walk home.

August 29th. Threw off at Corwen Bridge, and had a trail all the way up to Mr. Jones's place below Bala. Tried back to Crogen, but did not find.

August 30th. Had another good trail up to the river and found in Croggin Deep, but the water was too high to keep the otter moving. Tried back, and found in some calling about half-a-mile below Corwen Bridge; swam it well for three hours, but were beaten by night coming on.

August 31st. Drove with Mrs. Lomax over the hills to look at the river Vyrnwy at Llansaintffraid; a very likely river for otters, but very large.

September 1st. Trailed two otters about the neighbourhood of Corwen, but could not find.

September 3rd. Threw off at Hallum Bridge and had a good trail at some calling above Crogen and above Mr. Jones's to Bala, where, I believe, there were two otters in some strong calling, but the hounds could not mark them. Put hounds and men into a conveyance; drove to Crogen, and trying down, found very beautifully at a root about two miles below Hallum Bridge. Swam the otter a short time; then it settled in some calling, and we could not stir it again.

September 4th. Had an excellent trail down to the bridge below Corwen, at Llansaintffraid. Tried several miles down, returned and found in some very strong calling (two otters) at the deep above Llansaintffraid, but could not move them. We had an excellent and keen field of sportsmen out every day on the banks of the Dee, but the river was so spoiled with stick embankments, that there is no longer any chance of showing sport in it with hounds.

September 5th. Sent the men and hounds to Ruthin early, in a conveyance, and then tried down the Clwyd to Glanywern Bridge, where the otter had gone down. The hounds went by Denbigh to Llanfair, on the Elwy.

September 6th. Drove to Llanfair from St. Asaph, and thence with four hounds to a village four miles above, as there was a trail at the

bridge, and James Westell had not been able to find out whether the otter had come up or gone down. Found the otter had doubled back; old Nugger and Crab found him in a drain about a mile below Llanfair. Got it out with some difficulty, and worried him right away, as the hounds wanted blood, and as we expected to find below. Tried down to St. Asaph, but did not find.

September 13th. Met at the Five Barred Gate. Tried the Darwen below Roach Bridge, returned and found at the deep above the bridge, but could not get it to move. Crossed over to Ribble by Radical Jacks, and had a beautiful trail to the turn above Blizzar Rocks, where Bellman found. Few of the hounds went abroad with him, and I could not quite believe them; however, whilst we were trying above, and just passed the trail, a man came running to tell us that he had seen the otter amongst Blizzar Rocks going down. We immediately returned, and recovered him amongst some bushes about a quarter of a mile below where he had been seen, and for about three quarters of an hour we had the merriest hunt with him, in and out of the water, that I ever witnessed. After trying the land and fighting his way back several times, at length he cut right across the fields, and the hounds ran into him. It was a nice dog otter, about twenty-two pounds, and he fought gallantly.

September 19th. Threw off at Halton, near Lancaster. Had a cold trail to the foot of Wenning, and thence a capital trail to about a meli and a half above Tunstall in the Lune; found it was a double trail; tried back, but could not find.

September 20th. Tried up towards Greta Foot, cutting over the pasture above Hornby Bridge. Had an excellent double trail; tried down, and found a fine bitch otter, lying loose in the wood, at the turn above Hornby Bridge; ran it an hour and a half in the cover. It took the water once for about a hundred yards, and at last it went abroad at the lowest corner of the plantation and stole into a drain unseen by anyone. After a good deal of puzzling work, and sending for fresh terriers, we bolted it, and worried it immediately. T. Trappes, etc., out.

September 21st. Tried down to Lancaster. No hunt.

September 27th. Met at Chaighley, and tried the Loud up to the Limekilns; only a cold trail. Returned to Doeford Bridge, where we had a brilliant double trail to Bashall Lodge, did not find.

October 3rd. Threw off at Hacking Hall. Had a brilliant trail to Ree Deep, where we found two otters in the wood; the bitch went abroad, and the dog kept the wood, where we ran him two hours. He came to the river twice with the hounds close at him, swam about forty yards, and took to the wood again. At last he took the water in earnest, and swam up the river towards Luke Lum, where we knew the bitch otter was lying at a stone in the middle of the river. Here we changed otters, and did not find out our mistake, till the bitch otter was quite dead beat near the Troughs, where we called off to give the hounds some bread. They were very much blown and starved; for it kept raining. We tried up afterwards for the dog otter, but did not find him. I sent to let them know at Stonyhurst, but Mr. Vaughan dared not let the scholars come, as the head men were out. The day turned out so wet that it would not have done for them. The dog otter was a fine lengthy one, and was seen scores of times in cover, but never hit a hound, but old Nudger. We could have killed both otters easily, but did not wish to hunt the bitch, which saved the dog's life. T. Trappes, my brother Thomas, and some gentlemen from Whalley out.

October 8th. Met at Ribchester Bridge. Found the water up. Returned to Hacking Boat, and had an excellent trail to a drain above Waddow Deep.

1856.

February 14th. James bought Ranter and Random for seven pounds, at Birmingham.

| | | | | |
|------------------|------------------------|---|------|--|
| <i>February.</i> | Bought Rattler | — | £15. | |
| | Bought Nailor (Fowler) | | £11. | |
| | Bought Ringwood | — | £4 | } At Mr. Oswald's sale at Birmingham. |
| | Bought Smuggler | — | £4 | |

March 11th. Threw off at Hyndburn Foot. Had an excellent trail past Whalley down to Ree Deep, did not find. In coming home old Nudger, who looked quite hearty, dropped down dead, at least fell and died in a few minutes at Tan House. He had fallen down a pit a few days previous, but seemed no worse for his fall. Had him opened next day, and found a rabbit's head in his stomach, which a keeper told me had hung up in a tree before, to kill magpies and carrion crows, and which had been missing some time. The eyes were filled with strychnine.

April 14th. James Westwell took three hounds to the Thorns in Goosnargh, and had an excellent hunt from within a mile of the public house to below Willowford Deeps. He had gone into the Wyre.

April 16th. Caught a fine dog otter in the old Coalpit Sough at the Engine, with Tartar, Pincher, Crab and Vengeance.

April 21st. Met at the Higher Bridge. Finding no hunt made up to Doeford Bridge. Had no trail till we got above Whitewell, whence we had a good hunt to above Mr. Peel's. Tried a drain or two, but thought we had left them in the drain above Whitewell. There seemed to be an old bitch and cubs. A lot of officers from Preston and my brother, etc., out.

May 5th. Threw off at Mitton Bridge. Had a trail from the drain at Dum Jordan down to Jumbles, where we found a fine bitch otter in the long drain. After seeing it twice, and after biting both terriers, we lost it for a while, though they could hunt the water from it into Ribble. Whilst we were digging a hole, Ringwood (who tried the drain uncommonly well), brought him out into Ribble. They sent T. Trappes to let the Philosophers know at Stonyhurst. We kept the hounds in the stables till they arrived. Then we found the otter down at Ree Deep, and after a merry swim of nearly an hour, killed it in good style, and gave it to them to take to be stuffed. It seemed a fine bitch otter about eighteen pounds weight. Young Marmaduke Maxwell, H. Tempest, and Lawson were of the party.

May 23rd. Threw off at St. Asaph. Had a fair trial to above the rocks in the Elwy. Had a cold trail to the usual mill above Pont-y-Doll,

and found a strong dog otter in the strong root below the weir, near the islands; ran him forty minutes in the open (for he would not keep water a moment), and killed him in the middle of a field. Arthur Lascelles, and a friend and T. Trappes out.

May 24th. Tried the Elwy again, did not find.

May 26th, 27th, 29th. Tried the Elwy, did not find. Charles and the gentlemen from St. Beuno's out.

May 31st. Threw off at the bridge near Mr. Maddox's on the Clwyd; found a bitch otter about two miles below Ruthin; swam her six hours, the last four hours beautifully. Captain Hopwood and Ainsworth, etc., out.

June 2nd. Met at Llanfair. Dug all day at a drain a mile below the village (where James thought he had found an otter), but it had gone down.

June 3rd. Met at Pont-y-Doll, and hunted down to St. Asaph. Marked an otter is some fresh calling about the town, but had no chance of stirring it.

June 12th. Threw off at the top of Halton Roughs (below Doeford Bridge). Had an excellent trail to a simple looking root, opposite to Lily Holme drain, where Mountain found it. There were several officers out from Preston, who pothered it in the shallow, and someone shouting out it was very small, we coupled the hounds up and shut them in a barn, intending to find it with two or three. But after an immense deal of trying, we recovered it at the Plumtree Deep, and swam it a long time (an hour and a half) with six hounds and then called off. It was very cold water. Mrs. Lomax and Herman Walmesley met us at Whitewell. T. Trappes and Thomas out.

July 1st. Sent the hounds over night to Whitewell, that the drains might be stopped. Threw off at half-past-eight, and found a fine otter in the Higher Drain above Whitewell. He had got in, in the middle of the field. After a good deal of digging and laddling out some water, we bolted him from the lower end near the river. He made a jolly swim to

a little above the Stone Bridge, below which the hounds gave him a good shaking. However, we got them off and gave him time to steal down. The hounds kept hunting the water altogether and he was not found again for some time till Singer marked him in some brash just above the Wooden Bridge at Whitewell. After going quite below and making some good fun, he stole into a drain (which we did not know of), close to the house. We pulled half the pavement up in front of the inn, and after an immense deal of terrier work, James caught him by the tail and let him go over the wall beside the Wooden Bridge, where, after half an hour's exciting fun, the hounds ran into him. He weighed twenty-three pounds and a half. Mrs. Lomax, Eastwood, my brother Tom with an officer from Preston, and all the sportsmen in the vicinity were out and highly delighted. The Whitewell keepers and Eastwood worked admirably, and little Tartar and Crab did wonders. The latter was dreadfully punished. One of Mr. Towneley's thorough-bred mares killed poor old London the evening before.

August 28th. Threw off at the Aqueduct above Lancaster, and found a fine dog otter at the long deep below the Crook of Lune. Swam it eight hours and a half; did not kill, it was so very wet and miserable.

August 29th. Hunted the same otter up to Ridds drain at Thurland Castle, where we found out too late that it had doubled back to a drain about a quarter of a mile above Hornby Bridge. James Westell and myself went back, and thought by Tartar that the otter was in, but it had got too late to find it. We, however, made it partially up.

August 30th. The otter had worked itself out at the top end of the drain, and we had a beautiful trail up to a rock-hold at Casterton, above Kirkby Lonsdale, where it bit Tartar, but could never afterwards be found. We tried working on, but all to no purpose.

September 6th. Met at Ribchester Bridge, and had an excellent trail to the drain at Jumbles, where the hounds bolted an otter. We swam him down to Hough Deep and back to above Stone Hole. The water quite fresh. A very large otter, and was swum well for three hours.

September 10th. Threw off at Caton. The river Lune came down bank-full; there had been no rain near Caton. Stayed at Hornby.

September 11th. Threw off at Caton. The river still muddy and rather high. Hunted an otter up to a drain in Quernmore Park. Tried for three hours, and concluded the otter had gone from there. Had a brilliant trail to a little above the garden at Halton, where we had a splendid trail of an old dog otter. He stole right up the mill race, when he had a tussle with some of the hounds, but got back into Lune, and we swam him till dark (seven hours). We had him dead beat, venting and coming to the side by the call near Lancaster. Had we found him sooner we should certainly have killed him.

October 21st. Threw off at the Higher Bridge on the Hodder, and had a beautiful trail up to Stakes. Tried up to Whitewell. Left the otter in the Loud.

October 24th. Met at Mitton Bridge. Had an excellent double trail from Hodder Foot to the Higher Bridge. Were afraid the otter had gone into Calder. Tried to Doeford Bridge, and up the Loud to near the Derby Arms. Returned to Doeford Bridge, and had a good trail to past Lily Holme. Called off and walked back to Mitton. T. Trappes, my brother Thomas, and several officers out.

October 30th. Threw off at Hothersall Hall (where we left our horses), below Ribchester, and had a beautiful double trail down to the Wood Bridge, near Preston. Tried back, and thought we found an otter at Jackson Banks, but did not try to get it out as it was getting too late in the day to swim it. T. Trappes and my brother Thomas, out.

1857.

April 17th. Threw off at Mitton Bridge. Had an excellent trail about the meeting of the rivers, and found two otters at Hacking Boat drain. One went abroad, and the other came out and went in again. We got the hounds off, as they seemed only about ten pounds weight each, and tried down to Ribchester Bridge for a fresh otter, but did not find. Marmaduke Maxwell and about a dozen more Philosophers were out, and T. Trappes and two friends from Preston.

April. Threw off at the top of Bolton Roughs.

May 6th. Threw off at Sawley. Had a good trail about Bolton grounds, but did not find, as the otter had been made in. Tried down the river to Mitton Bridge; left an otter in a drain at Clitheroe Linckilns; did not try to get it out.

May 13th. Met at Mitton Bridge. Tried down to Blizzar Rocks, in Samlesbury. Found a bitch otter and two cubs at Jackson Banks. Called off, and tried down to Samlesbury Hall; no find. Sent the hounds over the hill. T. Trappes and myself returned to our horses at Ribchester Bridge. This was the first hot day we had had.

May 19th. Threw off at Hornby Bridge upon the Lune. Found an old dog otter at the usual corner at the top of the Holme above the bridge. He stole abroad almost before the hounds reached the root, and cut away at a tremendous rate, for the hounds never got up with him till they were below Hornby Bridge, where they swam him breast high almost to the brook below, and he had called very seldom. There was a cold wind upon the water, and for an hour and a half it was most puzzling, for the hounds could only find him now and then, and he was never seen. We had lost him for about a quarter of an hour, when I thought he must have stolen up, and so he had, but only to a lump of rubbish under the middle arch of the bridge, where old Mountain recovered him beautifully, and some people on the bridge viewed him down the stream. From this point it was a merry swim, and he kept us going almost to the stream above Wenning Foot; then he took back again halfway up to the bridge. At length he was evidently getting beat, and had several hairbreadth escapes. Just as he was sailing down the stream, James Westell tailed him, and the hounds worried him on the gravel bed. This was the old fellow who had twice beaten us last year near Lancaster. He weighed twenty-six pounds.

May 20th. Threw off at Grimes Hill, six miles above Kirkby Lonsdale. Had a double trail nearly to Sedburgh. Returned to our starting point, and had not gone a quarter of a mile before we found (Gambler and Royal) a dog otter at a rapid stream on the opposite side to Mr. Moore's. He soon left the river, and stole up into a short drain under a root. We got him out, gave him a shake or two, and let him go. In

less than ten minutes he stole into another drain, running no one knew where. After a good deal of trouble and digging, old Crab at last marked him, and then we soon had him out. Turning him over the wall, we let him go again into the river, but not before the hounds had a good tussle with him. We then had a beautiful lively swim for nearly an hour, when Royal and Lambton seized him, and held him till all the pack joined them, and all was soon up with him. He weighed nearly twenty pounds. Salvin, Pedder, T. Trappes, my brother Tom, and some gentlemen from Liverpool, Lancaster, and lots from Kirkby Lonsdale were out, and all were highly pleased.

May 27th. Threw off at Roach Bridge (Darwen). Had a very cold trail to Woodfold Park Brook, from the lower end of which, commencing at an old shoot of loose stones, we had a beautiful hunt all about the fish ponds. Thought the otter was in the shoot where the trail began. A large field out. Lunched with Sparrow.

May 28th. Breakfasted at Woodfold at half past eight. Trailed the otter down to the deep below Roach Mill. After two hours of very slow work (though the find was beautiful), the otter took to the woods, where it ran forty minutes, crossing over some bare fields into a wood quite off the Darwen, whence the hounds ran into it. It was a small bitch otter. Rev. Mr. Smith, Rev. Mr. Ryan (near Corby Castle), Robert Trappes and Sons, Salvin, Sparrow, Swainson, etc., were out, and all were well delighted. Lunched at Woodfold very merrily.

June 12th. Found an otter opposite Banks Wood in the Calder. River very high.

June 16th. Met at Mitton Bridge at nine o'clock to give the Stonyhurst Philosophers a day. Had a beautiful double trail all about the meeting of the rivers and up to above Hodder Place. Found the drain at Hill Hole in Calder not stopped as ordered, and thinking there was little chance of a trail, excepting in Great Ribble, tried down that river. Took a hot trail from Sale Wheel, where an otter had lain the day before; put up at Ribchester Bridge, to give the party a good luncheon of bread and cheese and beer; had a beautiful trail down to Jackson Banks,

where we found a smart otter at two o'clock (Vengeance and Lambton), which took boldly up into the deep above (Stubbins Deep), venting all the way. After swimming about twenty minutes it stole up into a sort of broken drain in the wood, old Mountain hitting it up splendidly. After about three-quarters of an hour we bolted him, and letting him gain the Ribble, swam him down to the Boat Hole below Jackson Banks till six o'clock, when we called off, as the Stonyhurst party were obliged to leave at five o'clock, which should have been their dinner hour. I reached home, having my horse at Ribchester Bridge, exactly at nine o'clock. Bond, Marmaduke Maxwell, and about a dozen others were out and highly delighted. Wilkinson, Charles Trappes, Thwaites, and young Sparrow were there till the end. They did not want the otter killing, which we could have done easily in a few minutes.

June 22nd. Threw off at Mitton Bridge. Tried down to Blizzar Rocks; found an old bitch otter and cubs up a brook just above Blizzar Rocks; gave her plenty of time to get through the wood into the Ribble, but getting into a fresh hold in the covert, the hounds worried her before we could get at them. A fine bitch otter, between seventeen and eighteen pounds weight. Robert Trappes and sons, Underhill, and Miss Mary Lomax were up at the finish. T. Lomax and Henry Trappes stayed at Ribchester Bridge.

July 2nd. Met at Hacking Hall. Had an excellent trail about Mitton Wood, where the drains in the Calder had been stopped the day before. James Westell had sealed an otter down at Luke Lum; so we tried down to Stone Hole, but, finding the hunt worse, returned to Hacking Boat, where we found in some calling at the foot of Calder. The hounds must have disturbed the otter in the morning, for it lay quite loose. We swam this otter for above an hour in the Calder, between Hacking Boat and Mitton Wood. At last it stole down and was never out of sight for a minute for two hours more. We killed it just below Luke Lum. This hunt was purposely for the Philosophers of Stonyhurst, and highly delighted they were. Jim Rushton tailed it when it could not have swum many minutes longer. They took it to Stonyhurst; a dog otter about twenty-one pounds weight. T. and C. Trappes, Rev. Fr. Cooper, etc., were out.

July 10th. Threw off at the top of Bolton Roughts in the Hodder. Had an excellent trail to near Knowlmore. Found a fine otter in the favourite drain above Whitewell; bolted it and swam it a considerable time with two couple of hounds. Tried some fresh hounds, which unfortunately seized him in the stream close to the Stone Bridge above Whitewell. Coupled all up except three hounds, and put him into a sack, fearing he was hurt. Ringwood offered very nicely to swim him. Turned him out at Mitton Bridge on our way home; he seemed about twenty-one pounds weight. T. Trappes, Eastwood, etc., out. Promised Mr. Taylor a couple of whelps.

July 15th. Explored the river Vyrnwy and Thanet in Wales.

August 20th. Met at Mitton Bridge. Had a beautiful trail up Hodder to the Paper Mill, where we found in a rock-hold about fifty yards up the wood. Put the hounds up at the Farm House, till, after a little work, old Crab bolted the otter, which took right away down Hodder. After again uncoupling the hounds we were sorely puzzled to tell which way the animal had gone. We never found a single place that he had called, till we got nearly half a mile below the Higher Bridge. We then found another place where he had rested at Black Wheel, and eventually found him near Moyser Wood, where he very shortly took into the wood, and gave the hounds a merry hunt, crossing the road into a wheat field belonging to Stonyhurst, and then beating them into the river by about ten yards a little below the old bridge over Hodder. We swam him to the bottom of the wood below, where the hounds ran into him. Twenty-two pounds' weight. Albert Petre, the Duke of Terra Nova (Italy), Robert Trappes and sons, etc., out. Took the hounds to Oswestry.

August 26th. Threw off at the lowest bridge over the Tannat, near Llansaintffraid, in Montgomeryshire. Had a double trail from a mill below into the Vyrnwy, where we found, but called off, the deep looking so very unpromising. Returned up the Tannat, and found an old bitch otter about a mile below Llangedwin Green, which we swam five hours and killed at last in a wood.

August 27th. Threw off at the bridge above Llangedwin (Sir W. Wynne's), and after a beautiful trail for about two miles, found a dog

otter, which puzzled us for a time, as we were not sure whether it had left the root or not. After digging some time and trying down the root several times, at last old Mountain found him in a simple root, where he could get in under water. Having once moved him, he soon left the deep and James Westell caught him as he went down the shallow. He weighed twenty pounds. Tried up three miles above, and crossed the hill at Llanfyllin.

August 28th. Threw off at Maifod (sending the hounds in two cars). Had a superb trail to the foot of the Banw. Killed two cubs about a mile up, and had some excellent trailing to about a mile above Llanfair, where we found and swam an uncommonly quick otter till dark (eight o'clock). It had many a narrow escape, particularly in the mill-race, where from the very middle of the hounds, it managed to get over a steep bank into the river. Half-an-hour's daylight and we must have killed him. It appeared to be about twenty pounds' weight. Albert Petre, T. Trappes and myself got back to Oswestry at half-past twelve, and the men and hounds at four o'clock in the morning, as they could not get in at Llansaintffraid.

September 15th. Threw off at Jumbles. Had an excellent trail to below Sale Wheel, where we found an otter some way from the river, in a strong root, with an old drain running under it. The otter bit Pincher almost immediately, and though we dug for two hours, we never could stir it afterwards. Wilkinson sent me a nice young bitch otter the same day, which he caught alive near his house. It was about eleven pounds weight. We turned it out in Calder.

September 21st. Met at Pont-y-Doll on the Elwy (near St. Asaph). Had a good trail to above where the mill race runs into the river from the usual mill, where we caught a cub otter after coupling up the hounds. Threw off again where the old bitch otter was seen by Joseph Atkinson stealing from the island into the mill race, where, after getting the water lowered, we found her. She soon stole over the meadow unseen, and bolted in and out of the water up to the bridge, nearly a mile above where the hounds overran her; she returned without a single "tally-ho" to

below the island, where she again took to the land, and gained the river a little below the footbridge, near the keeper's house. After trying below Pont-y-Doll two or three times, we at length found her at a rocky place about a quarter of a mile below the footbridge, where we could soon have finished her; but, allowing her to go down stream in order to show sport, she got into a fast root where we tried in vain to move her. King and several gentlemen from Liverpool out.

September 22nd. Found the same otter in a drain below Llanfair. Got her out with the terriers at half past twelve. Swam her till half past seven, and called off, leaving her close to Llanfair. Beaten by darkness.

September 23rd. Hunted the same otter about two miles and a half above Llanfair; could not find.

September 25th. Threw off at the bridge nearest Denbigh on the Clwyd. Hunted a fine dog otter right up. Thought we found him about two miles up, but, seeing another otter immediately after, thought it had gone from there. Had a good hunt close to Ruthin. Got lots of bread and cheese for the Collegians, etc.; returned, and Ringwood found the old fellow about a hundred yards above where they marked in the morning. They had missed hitting him abroad. We swam him till half past six, and called off, it being too dark. Had the Collegians worked tolerably the otter would have been killed by five o'clock. We found him at a quarter past two. He looked about twenty-six pounds weight.

September 20th. Met at Ruthin. Tried up the brook above the mill, below where we had an excellent double trail and returning to the mill found a bitch otter in a drain under the mill race. Killed her immediately as she came out, as we wanted blood.

October 6th. Met at Brockholes' Arms, near Garstang, at nine o'clock. The river Wyre was quite up so we returned home again. There was a good trail up the river.

1858.

February 13th. Took a couple of hounds and terriers to Carr Hall, and bagged a fine bitch otter out of a drain below the house. It had committed sad havoc amongst the carp in Mr. Clayton's ponds.

March 23rd. Went to breakfast at Carr Hall. Threw off about ten o'clock. Found a bitch otter in a drain near the Hall. Bolted it, and had an excellent swim of two hours and twenty minutes. Killed her in good style. Joseph Atkinson tailed it at last.

April 20th. Threw off at Mitton Bridge. Had a beautiful trail to Bashall Lodge, where we found a fine dog otter in a drain, where he was very bad to get at; swam him an hour, and called off at Higher Bridge. He took right up the river for about half a mile with the whole pack close upon him. Nothing could be prettier than the first half hour of the swim.

April 28th. Met at Sawley. Had a magnificent trail from the otters' well at Bolton to near Pathorn Bridge. Found a bitch otter in a drain close to. Had a deal of trouble in getting her out, when she went straight in again at the river end. Bolted her again at last, when we had the most lively hunt and swim for an hour that could be imagined. How she managed to escape was marvellous. James Westell tailed her; she weighed fifteen pounds. I gave this otter to Mr. Pinnington to be stuffed. Mrs. Trappes, her sons, Hardman, Pinnington, etc., out.

May 5th. Threw off at Hacking Boat. Tried the Meetings, and had no trail till we came to Ree Deep, whence a bitch otter had doubled back to Stone Hole, where we found her and swam her for a couple of hours, leaving her in a Boat Hole up at the Troughs. T. Trappes and a friend of his from Cheshire out, the latter missing all the sport.

May 12th. Threw off at Ribchester Bridge. Had a good trail up to Stone Hole. Turned back and had a better still to the top of Jackson Banks, but no further. Tried back, and dug a long time at the drain above Hothersall Hall, but the otter seemed to have gone from there. T. Trappes and Potter out.

June 1st. Threw off below Garstang on the Wyre. Found immediately above Churchtown. Swam it some time and called off, the otter having got into some stick calling, where we could do no good with it. Tried to St. Michaels, but did not find; returned to Claughton Hall.

June 2nd. Threw off at Garstang Bridge. Had a beautiful trail about a mile and a half up the river; thought the otter was at a strong root, but it was no go. Came home by rail, as there was no chance below, on account of the calling and the grass being very forward.

June 9th. Threw off at Hornby Bridge, and tried up Lune to above the Junction of the Rawthey. Had nothing but a cold trail about Grime Hill. Left the hounds and returned to Hornby. A party from Liverpool out.

June 10th. Found an otter at seven o'clock at the top corner above Hornby Bridge, with Ruler and Royal. Sent express for the hounds to Grimes Hill; they arrived at one o'clock; we had kept the otter going with four hounds till they came. When we had swum him merrily with all the pack for about an hour, they caught him under his old root, and gave him a good shaking; after that he was never seen again. There was a false alarm that he was below the bridge, where the hounds hunted the water till night, but never found him. The fact was we had left him above the bridge.

June 11th. Threw off at the top of the Holme, above Hornby Bridge, at five o'clock. Hunted our old friend up to Kirkby Lonsdale Bridge; swam him three hours and a half, and ran into him about half a mile below; a beautiful swim. All Kirkby out. It was a fine dog otter weighing twenty-three pounds.

June 23rd. Threw off at Mitton Bridge. Had an excellent trail to Stone Hole, where we found a fine dog otter; swam him down to Ribchester Bridge and called off. T. and C. Trappes out.

July 23rd. Met at Llangedwin Green on the Tannat at seven o'clock. The otters having been trapped as Llansaintffraid, we made the best of our way to Maifod on the Vyrnwy, whence we had a good hunt to near Llanfair, where we thought we found at a mill, but made nothing of it.

July 25th. Had a good trail nearly up to Llanfyllin, but did not find.

July 26th. Threw off at Mallwyd on the river Dovey, which was quite up; caught a young bitch otter, which we brought home.

July 27th. Swam the old bitch beautifully from half past eight in the morning till half past four, not having a doubt of killing her, for she was dead beat, when all at once she disappeared, and nothing could be made of her.

July 28th. Tried down to where the tide comes up, but had no hunt.

July 29th. Got to Llanfyllin to breakfast, and, finding there was a hunt, waited till the rest of the pack arrived when we had a splendid trail for about three miles up a rocky river which joins the Vyrnwy just below. We hunted the otter to a drain where the grass was not cut, and, after digging a while, gave it up.

August 18th. Threw off at Caton, near Lancaster. Found an otter in the short drain above Hornby Bridge. Young Luther caught it by the tail; it weighed about twenty pounds. Whilst the father was handing it to James Westell, it slipped from them into the Lune. The river being high, we saw no more of it.

August 19th. Threw off at Hornby Bridge very early; tried a great deal of ground, but could not find.

August 20th. Had a magnificent trail at five o'clock in the morning up to the foot of Greta, and down to Caton, but did not find. The water was high.

August 27th. Threw off at Hacking Hall. Had a splendid trail to the Troughs of a bitch otter and cubs, which we did not wish to disturb. Tried on, and found a dog otter seventeen pounds' weight at Jackson Banks; swam him two hours and a quarter, when the hounds ran into him just between the deeps. It was a beautiful swim. T. Trappes, etc., out. Potter got this otter to stuff.

September 14th. Threw off at the top of Bolton Roughs. Had a capital trail to a little above Stakes, and thence a tolerable trail to the drain above Whitewell, but the otter was not in. Met Mrs. Lomax, my brothers Edmund and Thomas.

1859.

January 24th. Old Mountain marked an otter in the drain at Egg Syke. Took Crab and Tartar and caught it after digging half a dozen holes; it appeared to be lying in the place I had made for the otters some years ago.

February 16th. Caught an old bitch otter in Egg Syke drain. Ruler found it. It died in about a fortnight, though it ate rabbits, etc.

April 14th. Had a good trail down to Ribchester Bridge, but did not find. As warm as summer.

May 10th. Met at Mitton Bridge. Had a good trail at the Meetings, and up to Hodder Place, but finding the otter sealed down, returned to Hodder Foot, and found a splendid otter in Jumbles' drain, which the terriers soon bolted, and which afforded us excellent sport for three hours and a half. The dogs ran into him at Ribchester. It was a fine dog otter. He weighed twenty-five pounds and a half and measured four feet, two inches in length. Captain Mainwaring, Anderton, Trappes, Potter, etc., were out. I never saw an otter better hunted than this. The hounds had all to do, for there was an east wind upon the river, and the otter was seldom seen for above three hours.

May 18th. Threw off at Pont-y-Doll on the Elwy, near St. Asaph. Tried up about three miles; no trail. Returned to Pont-y-Doll, and trying down, found a bitch otter at a mill dam below the rocks near St. Mary's Well. Swam her an hour and a half, and ran into her below the call in some strong roots.

May 19th. Threw off at Glanywern Bridge, near Mr. Maddox's on the Clwyd. Found a bitch otter a little above the junction of the Clwydog. Swam her an hour, and caught her in the stream. Tried for some time thinking there was a second otter abroad, but did not fairly find it. Got some bread for the hounds, and got on to an excellent trail above, finding another bitch otter at a strong hold about a mile and a half below Ruthin. It took us an hour digging her out; then

we had a capital swim of two hours and a quarter, when we killed her with a glorious shout. She stole away from the Clywd into some by-water full of rushes. A. Lascelles, T. and C. Trappes, Mr. King, and a large party from Liverpool out.

May 21st. Threw off again at Glanywern Bridge. Had a good trail up to the mill below Ruthin; crossed over through the Clwydog above the public house; had a famous trail, but did not find.

May 23rd. Found an otter (T. Trappes and James Westell having hunted it early in the morning) just below the second bridge, below the junction of the Aled and the Elwy; swam it an hour and a quarter, and ran into it. A young dog otter, about fifteen pounds weight.

May 24th. James Westell took the train to Denbigh, and found an otter in a small brook near the Asylum, with Royal. We were just finishing dinner when James arrived with the intelligence. We started right away with a fresh couple of hounds and a couple of terriers, and caught two otters, about fourteen or fifteen pounds each, and sent them off to Calder next morning.

May 25th. Met at Glanywern Bridge at seven o'clock. Had a splendid trail up the Clywedog, and then right across the country into the Clwyd and up to a root about a mile below Ruthin, where we found a fine old dog otter, and worried him rather too soon, James Westell being too eager, as there was no possible chance of the otter getting away. He weighed twenty-two pounds. The young hounds hunted beautifully.

May 26th. Met at St. Asaph at nine o'clock. Tried five or six miles up the Clwyd, but not finding, returned and found an otter (Rattler) about half way between the bridge and the junction with the Elwy. Swam it three hours and called off.

June 14th. Threw off at Mitton Bridge. Had an excellent trail up Hodder, the water being very low; tried down Ribble, and thought we found in Dobbin Wood, but could not get it out. Trappes and his sons, Wilson, etc., out.

June 21st. Threw off at Lune Bridge, near Hornby, at seven o'clock. Had a double trail to near Greta Foot, and to below the Wenning. Tried back, and felt satisfied the otter must be in the old drain above Lune Bridge. Stopped the water coming in, and dug a couple of holes, when Pepper went right up to her at the top of the drain, and soon put her abroad; she shortly afterwards stole down below the bridge, where she sailed for half a mile, and twice returned nearly to the bridge, the second time getting actually amongst some wreck beneath the arch, where there was a tremendous crash. We then stopped her at the stream, where the brook joins the Lune, and had her going most merrily for nearly an hour, expecting every minute to kill her; but at last she got down into the long bushy deep below, where for a long time things looked rather dubious, as hounds and otter were both getting beat, the latter hanging in deep water amongst the willow branches; so I sent for two couples of fresh hounds, and at length she stole up into a root some yards from the river, where the hounds ran into her after a swim of six hours and three quarters. She was an old bitch otter, and weighed eighteen pounds and a half. We had a very large field out from Kirkby Lonsdale, Liverpool, Lancaster, besides Mr. and Mrs. Dawson, of Hornby Castle, young Moore, Mr. Gillow, Bates, Wensley, etc.

June 22nd. Threw off at the top of the Holme, above Lune Bridge. Had an excellent double trail precisely over the same ground as the day before, and found a fine old dog otter of twenty-four and a half pounds weight, in the long drain at Nab Farm. Old Lambton made an excellent mark, and after some terrier work, and ladling out of water, we caught him in the middle of the field, and took him in a sack to the deep above Hornby Bridge, in the Wenning, as it was very wet and windy, and unfit for hunting in the Lune. He made for the drain, and was caught by the hounds. We swam him an hour and twenty minutes. He weighed twenty-four pounds and a half.

July 29th. Threw off at the Paper Mill, and had a cold trail nearly up to Knowlmere, but did not find. The water was exceedingly low, and the weather dreadfully hot.

August 5th. Met at Ribchester Bridge. Had a good trail from

Ree Deep to Hill Hole in Calder, where we found (Ruler). After half an hour's swim we called off, as the otter seemed but small. Found a second otter of about sixteen pounds weight, in the drain at Dum Jordan, the foot of Little Ribble. Turned it out in the middle of the field before the young hounds; swam it about an hour and called off, leaving it in a strong root below the drain. Potter and friends out.

August 18th. Met at Mitton Bridge. Threw off at the Lower Bridge in Hodder. Finding no trail, cut down to Jumbles, and had a capital trail to the drain at Hothersall Hall, below Ribchester. Thought the otter had gone from the drain up the river; tried back from Sale Wheel to Mitton Bridge, but did not find. A large field out.

August 25th. Threw off at Sawley. Tried up to above Mr. York's; no trail. A very hot day, and a good field out.

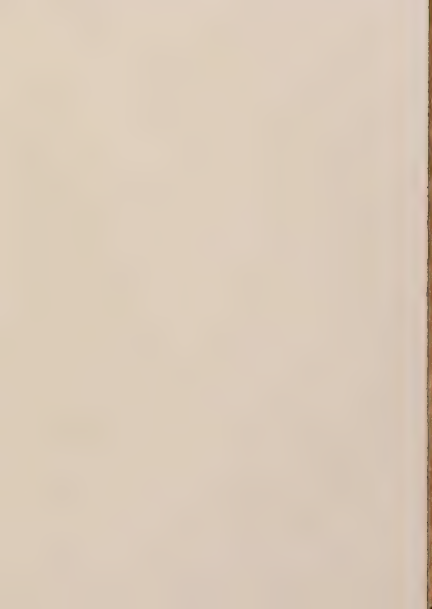
August 29th. Sent the hounds to Maifod, Montgomeryshire. Stayed at Llanfyllin with T. Trappes, three days. The rivers kept up so we returned home on September 2nd.

September 16th. Threw off at Sawley. Had a trail down to Waddow, did not find; supposed the drains had been made up too late. Tried to Hodder Foot, where we had a capital trail to the Paper Mill; did not find.

September 28th. Threw off at the top of Bolton Roughs. Had a good trail to the drain above Whitewell. T. Trappes, etc., out.

October 6th. Met at Mitton Bridge at half past eight. Had an excellent trail to below the Higher Bridge in Hodder. Tried up to Bashall; finding the hunt did not improve, returned to Hodder Foot; had a splendid double trail to Chew Mill Call; tried back to the Troughs, then up to Hodder Foot, but did not find. An otter had gone out of the middle of Jumbles' drain (the lower end being stopped) right over the field into Ribble. Sir Humphrey de Trafford, Edward Petre, Le G. Starkie, Captain Ellis, T. Trappes, Allinson, etc., out. A beautiful sunny day.

October 15th. Threw off at Mitton Bridge at nine o'clock. A beautiful morning. Had a good trail at the lower end of Hodder, and



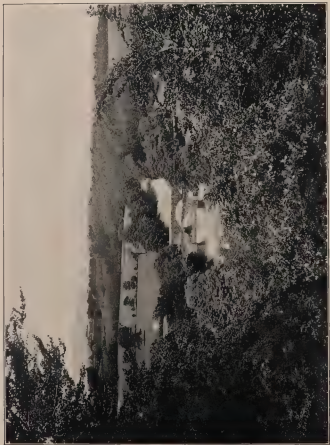


Photo by Rev. R. H. A. A. A.

RIVER HODDER.
Paradise on left.
Mower Wood on right

through Mitton Wood into Calder. Sealed it down at the drain, which had been stopped the day before. Tried down Ribble to Ribchester Bridge; found the trail got colder, returned by road to Otter Ford, in Calder, and hunted up to Cock Bridge, having a good trail all the way. Left an otter in one of the drains below Moreton, but could not tell in which. Edward Petre, T. Trappes, Potter, and Bates out.

1860.

April 12th. Threw off at the top of Bolton Roughs, and tried up to above Newton. Hunted an otter into the drain above Whitewell. Lunched with Major Campbell. Bad scenting day. A cold hunt about Knowlmere.

April 16th. Went to breakfast at Haighton, and threw off below Barton Lodge at ten o'clock. Had a good trail to the bottom of Hollowforth Deep, below the Canal. Turned back and found in a drain just beneath the railway, caught it alive. Dined at Haighton, and brought it home unhurt. Swam it next day for two hours and three quarters in Fairfield Pit. A bitch otter about fifteen pounds weight.

April 24th. Met at Broughton. Tried up by Barton Lodge, and trailed a young otter about ten pounds weight, half a mile above the Hall. Cut across to below Hollowforth Deep, where James Westell had tried to fasten an old and very large dog otter in a short drain the day before. The otter had worked his way out, and after hunting him into the Brock down close to St. Michaels on the Wyre to Churchtown and back again, we were obliged to give in to him. T. Trappes, my brother Tom, and several officers from Preston out.

May 3rd. Had a tolerable trail at the foot of Hodder up to the Higher Bridge. Turned up the Chipping Road to the top of Bolton Roughs. Had a fair trial to Whitewell. Bad hunting weather.

May 9th. Threw off at Clwyd Bridge, near St. Asaph, at eight o'clock. Had a good trail for about two miles; found a dog otter twenty pounds' weight. Swam him three hours and ten minutes, when Bob (a Welsh Irishman) tailed him quite dead beat, and the hounds worried

him. T. Trappes, Cecil and Augustus de Trafford, King, and a large party from Liverpool out.

May 10th. Threw off at Glanywern Bridge on the Clwyd, near Denbigh. Had a capital trail of a bitch otter to a hold about a mile below Ruthin. The hounds would have worried her, if I had not dashed in to the rescue. Swam her one hour and forty minutes, and ran into her. A fine old bitch otter, weighing sixteen pounds and a half.

May 12th. Threw off at Llanfair on the Elwy, at ten o'clock. Had a good trail to the drain about four miles up; returned and Ranter found a bitch otter very cleverly behind some calling. She kept us going merrily in and out of the water for thirty minutes; she weighed fifteen and a half pounds.

May 14th. Met at Pont-y-Doll. Had a fair trail to the meeting of the Aled and the Elwy. Thinking the hunt did not improve, returned, and found a fine old dog otter (Ranter and Royal) about a mile above the Irishman's Bridge (Pont-y-Gwyddol). Swam him an hour and a half, and killed him in gallant style. Twenty-five pounds weight. Captain Mostyn, a gentleman from Staffordshire, etc., out.

May 15th. Threw off at Glanywern Bridge, near Denbigh. Sealed a fine dog otter right up, and had one of the best trails ever hunted up to the mill race, below Ruthin, when Tartar marked him in the old drain immediately. We drove him out at the lower end, and he crossed right up into the mill race, where after swimming him two hours and three-quarters, the hounds caught him trying to regain the drain at the higher side, but which we had fortunately secured with a board. He made a gallant fight and weighed Twenty-three pounds and a half. We had a good field out every day. De Trafford, T. Trappes, J. Mostyn, and his brother (Captain Mostyn), etc., were out.

May 29th. Threw off at Cow Bridge, Long Preston. Did not find, as the keeper had not stopped the large culvert according to promise. Tried down to Gieburn Mill, but did not find; had a good trail.

June 16th. Threw off at the top of Bolton Roughts; found an otter at a hollow bank at the turn below Lily Holme; river too high. T. and C. Trappes out.

June 27th. Threw off at Mitton Bridge. Had a good trail to Ree Deep, where we thought we found an otter. The water very high. Found it had stoken down; tried to Ribchester Bridge, but did not recover it. T. Trappes out.

July 4th. Met at Mitton. Had a capital trail into Calder, but did not follow it. Tried down to Sale Wheel; tried back to Jumbles' drain, and thence to Bashall Lodge. Did not find. Captain Tempest, Robinson, C. Trappes, etc., out.

July 11th. Met at Hornby at eight o'clock. Put an otter abroad at the top of the Holme above the bridge. It slipped down into the old steep drain just below. After getting it out, we had a good swim with it for six hours, between the bridge and the top of the wood, where we first found. The water was strong and dark, and the otter was seldom seen, though it took to the wood several times and was well hunted. It got up to its first hold, which proved to be a very strong place. After digging at it for two hours in vain and leaving little Tartar in the drain, we called off.

July 12th. Started at Wenning Foot at seven o'clock, and hunted our friend down to the large deep below the railway bridge past Caton, when it seemed a hopeless case, the hounds being, some of them, very seedy. However, it was soon "tally-hoed" in the wood, and got a good shaking, and had a very narrow escape, after which it got into a drain opposite Mr. Sharpe's house. Here, after the most persevering digging I ever saw out of one drain into another, we at last got to it, and worried it with a glorious shout.

July 13th. Having sent James Westell to Kirkby Lonsdale the night before, we found an otter with Royal a little below the favourite hold below Kirkby Bridge, where we met at nine o'clock. The otter had evidently been swimming about the deep, and was very difficult to find. At last the hounds swam in full chorus to a cleft in the rocks above the bridge, whence she stole away unseen, though there were hundreds of spectators, and the water perfectly clear. The young hounds hit her off through the wood about half a mile below, and I could not believe them till old Ruler came up and said it was all right. It got under an

old ash root, where the Lune is very shallow, and we gave it every chance of swimming longer, but it would make to the land, and the hounds ran into her. A bitch otter about eighteen pounds' weight.

July 27th. Met at Mitton Bridge at half past eight. Had a trail from the foot of Calder down to Blizzar Rocks (near Samlesbury), where we found a couple of otters in a very strong hold. Tartar marked them beautifully, but, unfortunately, when bolting, the old bitch otter got all but worried. She swam a short time and crept under a root a little from the river, nearly dead. A young one; it was about nine pounds' weight, swam well for about an hour, when James Westell caught it in the stream below the old call. Having left the white Chapel at Mitton, we had to walk home, where we arrived at a quarter past nine. C. Trappes, Chapman, Bates, Birtwistle, etc., out.

August 3rd. Met at Mitton Bridge. Had a trail down to Sale Wheel. Returned and hunted up to Whalley, but did not find.

August 10th. Met at the Red Pump. Had a good trail from the top of Bolton Roughs to the stream opposite the lower corner of Lily Holme, where Rockwood found a fine otter, which, after swimming a short time, took to the land, and made right up towards Whitewell on the Chipping side of the river, running in the woods for nearly three-quarters of an hour, when it gained the river above Lily Holme drain, and, taking the land again, would have been worried had not Charles Charles Trappes pulled Sailor off it just before the rest of the pack joined him. The otter regained the Hodder and we called off. Allowed Mr. W. B. the privilege of shooting rabbits on his farm, providing he will take care of the other game and show a good stock of hares and partridges on the same.

September 10th. Met at the Red Pump. Threw off above Bashall Lodge. Tried up to Bolton Roughs with a cold trail; tried back and had an excellent trail into Calder, but did not find. E. Petre, T. and C. Trappes, Hargreaves, Potter, Captain Gordon, etc., out.

September 11th. Met at Gisburn; tried to Bolton Hall and back up to Adam's Hole. The otter had got in at the Otter's Well before one o'clock.

September 12th. Stayed all night at Mr. Trappes' and met at Sawley. Had a capital hunt all about the Otter's Well, but the otter had got in again though the hole was stopped before twelve o'clock. E. Petre, Potter, Hargreaves, T. and C. Trappes, Captain Gordon, etc., out.

September 17th. Met at Mitton Bridge. Water bank-full; could not hunt.

September 20th. Threw off at the Red Pump. Having stopped the drains above Whitewell. Had a cold trail from Stakes to Knowlmere, where the hunt was good for about half a mile, but could not find. Supposed the otter to be in the drain above Mr. Peel's. Captain Gordon and Tom Trappes, etc., out.

September 24th. Met at Carr Hall at half-past nine. Had a splendid trail up to Colne; returned to Carr Mill, and hunted down to Padiham Bridge. Hunted an otter into a coal-pit level near Gawthorpe. A large field out, including several officers from Burnley.

September 27th. Threw off at Carr Hall at half-past nine; found a small bitch otter in the old drain near the mill race. Turned her into the pond and swam her twenty-five minutes with the young hounds and killed her. Thought there was a larger otter in the same drain in the middle of the field in front of the house, but after digging many holes, gave it up. Lunched at Carr and tried down to Gawthorpe; no hunt. The officers of the 58th, T. Trappes, etc., out.

October 2nd. Found a fine otter opposite Banks Wood with Singer and Royal.

October 3rd. Met at Mitton Bridge. A very stormy day. Had a very good trail up to Whalley and back to Rec Deep, where we found an otter, but could show no sport, as it was so enormously rough and cold. The officers of the 58th, etc., out.

1861.

April 24th. Threw off at Sawley Bridge. Had a short but excellent trail from Gisburn Mill to Adam's Hole, where we found a bitch otter in a drain, and killed her after a swim of half an hour.

April 30th. Went to Mr. Trappes at Chatburn; met at ten o'clock. Tried down to below Knowlmere. Blank. Dined with Mr. Wilkinson at Dunnow.

May 7th. Threw off at Hornby Bridge on the Wenning. A very large field out. Had a cold trail down to the willow beds near Hafton Wood, where the trail was glorious, cutting off the long round of the river. As there was a drain near where they struck the trail, and we found two otters sealed up near Hafton Wood, sent James Westell to try the drain with Randy and Tartar, whilst we tried below. Getting past the hunt at Halton, we met a messenger with the news that the otters were in the drain. Viper soon bolted them. We had a jolly swim with the first for three-quarters of an hour, first in the river, then in the pool amongst the willows, then in the Lune again, when at last they ran into her amongst the willows. A bitch otter about twelve pounds' weight. After trying up and down some time for the second otter without one touch of her, the hounds all gave tongue on the top of a high bank, above a drain near the turnpike road. We immediately set to digging, and an awful job it was, as the drain was two yards below the surface, and a bad one when we got to it. At length by perseverance we managed to bolt her at last. A fine bitch otter about seventeen pounds' weight. She made a brilliant swim of one hour and a half, when the hounds caught her in the shallow above Hafton Wood. Gillow of Leighton, Jefferson, etc., from Liverpool, stayed till the finish. T. Trappes, my brother and Harrison dined at Hornby at nine o'clock. Left the hounds and men at Caton, excepting old Singer.

May 8th. Tried with old Singer before breakfast, and hunted a fine dog otter into the large drain above Wenning Bridge, and hunted that or another otter into Jackson's drain, near the Lune. Immediately started, opening both drains, and turning off the water, and sent off for the hounds. Had not quite satisfied myself about Jackson's drain, when I took Royal to try the drain in Wenning, where he took the scent in the river, and went right up to the otter. Two lads, who had been digging, were sure they saw the otter pass by a hole about midway between the river and where the hounds had found him. So we stopped both ends of the lower half of the drain, and got Royal out, that all might see him

bolt, which we were sure would not be a work of five minutes ; however, we were dreadfully deceived, for we could neither mark him nor hunt the water from him, which we had let on and stopped again. We were almost in despair, digging for three or four hours without a glimpse of hope, when at last old Royal began hunting up the higher part of the drain just as he did in the morning, and found him a little higher up than at first. The up-water had begun to run over into some air holes near where the otter lay, which caused Royal to find him. The lads stuck to it that the otter passed them, and it is just possible that there might have been two. However, we were in ecstasies to see him bolt out of the drain, and a job we had to get him to the river, for every time we let him go away he went up towards the drain, and at him went all the terriers, and again he was tailed and taken towards the river. He made a capital swim of just one hour in the deep below the drain, and a glorious worry we had, Pilot seizing him in the water and dragging him on to the stones. He weighed twenty-five pounds and a half, and his skin was sent to York for a rug.

May 15th. Threw off at Barton Lodge ; found a bitch otter in the deep below. Tried up and down for some time in vain ; tried a mile and a half up the brook, till we passed the trail ; returned and found the otter about fifty yards below the first find. Had a miserable swim for two hours, finding it very rarely. Had lost it a considerable time, and were almost giving it up, as the miller would not lower the water sufficiently, when all at once Random found it at the lower end of the deep. Then the fun began. After a short time it stole out of the deep over land under a wooded weir or call, where it could get in under water, and the hounds could not get at it. However, we let the water off considerably, and then ladled out some more, where the hounds and terriers could get under, and a famous time of sport we had for above half-an-hour in the water, and under the banks which re-echoed again with the hounds beneath, and the men jumping and shouting above. It made many attempts to regain the deep, but Singer and Sailor were held in readiness on each side. At last last the former seized her and we had a glorious worry. It was a bitch otter about seventeen pounds' weight. T. Trappes, my brother Thomas, Harrison, and several officers out.

May 21st. Threw off at Bolton Bridge, on the Wharfe, at eight o'clock and found a fine dog otter in a drain about a mile below. Put him abroad, and had not swum him ten minutes when he stole out of the river under a root on the Addingham side and was worried before anybody could rescue him; he weighed twenty-one pounds and three-quarters. Finding no trail down, we tried back up to Barden Tower, hunting the otter we had killed all the way. Seeing no signs of another otter, the hounds and men made straight to Skipton and returned home by rail. T. Trappes, Lascelles, Hargreaves, Horsefall, some gentlemen from Skipton, etc., out. We found that eleven otters had been destroyed in the Wharfe during last year.

May 24th. James Westell and Joseph Sympson caught a young dog otter at Carr Hall Mill, which was turned out at the drain near Hill Hole, in Calder, the same night. It weighed about eight pounds. They left the old bitch and another cub at Carr.

May 28th. Threw off at Mitton Bridge. Had a cold trail to the Higher Bridge in Hodder, where from a drain on the Craighley side, just above the bridge, we had a fair hunt to the top of Bolton Roughs, the otter having been a good deal up and down the woods. Tried back and found a young dog otter in a curious looking root, a little above the brook running from Browsholme fish ponds. After considerable digging he bolted, swam to the top of the Roughs, and very cunningly got back into his old den. We got him out again, but could not let the hounds swim him, as he was only about eleven or twelve pounds' weight. Andrew tailed him. Captain Hargreaves, T. and C. Trappes, my brother Tom, and a lot from Stonyhurst out. The Hodder very, very low.

June 4th. Threw off at Pont-y-Doll on the Elwy (near St. Asaph). Thought we found at a strong shoot below the bridge (where the big Newfoundland dog was kept). Tried up to three miles above Llanfair; turned back and dug the drain, but could make nothing of it. Sir P. Mostyn, Dixon, and a large field out.

June 6th. Met at Glanywern Bridge on the Clwyd. Had a brilliant trail right up to the strong part of the river below Ruthin, when they put abroad a young dog otter, and soon killed it. The trail was a

"burster"; had a good field out. Captain Hopwood and his son, to whom the otter was given, Colonel King, and a large party from Liverpool out.

June 7th. Threw off at St. Asaph, and hunted a couple of otters into the rocks, where they were safe. James Westell, having come down with Royal from Llanfair, did not try any more. Lord Mostyn, Sir P. Mostyn, Lloyd Mostyn, young Hopwood, Lord Fielding, Major Hulton, with whom we lunched, were out.

June 8th. Threw off at Glanywern Bridge. Had a capital trail between the foot of the Clywedog and the very root where we found the otter the day before. Tried it over and over again, but could not find.

June 10th. Threw off at the Clwyd Bridge near St. Asaph. Had rather a cold trail till we came to the wood below the Park, where the hunt improved; and the hounds hit it up a dingle and hunted it breast high to a stile near the railway and within a few fields of the Elwy, but could not mark it a yard further. We returned and found a fine dog otter about a mile above the Park, which we swam for six hours and a quarter, when, going down a deep stream, Pilot caught it very cleverly and stuck to it till we got hold of him. He made a gallant fight, and weighed twenty-three pounds. Captain Griffith kindly sent for some luncheon for us. He, with three gentlemen from Liverpool, stayed till the finish. Lord Feilding and a friend of Lloyd Mostyn left in the middle of the swim.

June 11th. Threw off at Glanywern Bridge, and trying down the Clwyd, found and killed two cubs at an island about a mile above where we killed the dog otter the day before. Found the old bitch a little below the cubs; swam her three hours and called off, as it meant a deal of digging and we were not very anxious about killing her.

June 25th. Threw off at the top of Bolton Roughs. Had a good trail from a little above Stakes to the drain above Whitewell. No other hunt. Hodder very low. The day very wet.

July 4th. Having sent James Westell to stop all the drains the day before, threw off at Whitewell at ten o'clock. Had a pretty trail

to a little below the Boat Farm. Tried back and found two otters (Ruler) at the corner, at the foot of Lily Holme. Called off the hounds till we sent word to Mrs. Lomax, at Whitewell. Let one otter steal down to the rooty deep above the Top Pop, where it made a capital swim for three hours. It was very wet all the time. Mrs. Lomax, Miss Fanny Walmsley, Bishop Roskell, Rev. W. Dunderdale, and another priest, a Mr. Lowndes, my brother Tom, T. Trappes, Potter and friend, John Mercer, W. Entwistle and two sons, young Catterall, Hindle, and Bates, and several others from Harwood were out. It was a young dog otter and an excellent swimmer. It weighed fifteen pounds.

August 2nd. Threw off at the top of Bolton Roughs. Had a good trail from Stakes to about three miles up Dunsop. Hunted one or two otters to the drains above Whitewell. Robert and T. Trappes out.

August 8th. Threw off at Mitton Bridge. Had a good trail from Jumbles to below Ribchester Bridge. The water very high. All the Trappes, my brother Tom, and Robinson out.

August 20th. Met at Mitton Bridge. Hunted about the Meetings; water too high.

August 28th. Threw off at Mitton Bridge. Had an excellent trail to Stone Hole in Great Ribble, where old Singer found a fine dog otter. Lost him for a long time after swimming him for about an hour, and recovered him beautifully below Ree Deep; swam him another hour and called off, the water being too high to kill him.

August 31st. Threw off at the Higher Bridge, in Hodder, at seven o'clock. Had an excellent double trail nearly to the bridge below Hodder Place. Returned and had a good trail to the wood above Bashall Lodge, where the hounds hit it abroad breast high towards Bashall Hall. Hunted it to a certain point in a bank about a quarter of a mile to the north of Bashall Hall, and could hunt it no further. Tried up Hodder, and down again to Hodder Place, but could not find. T. and C. Trappes out; a beautiful day.

September 12th. Met at the Higher Bridge, in Hodder, at eight o'clock. Finding no hunt at the Bridge, walked up to the Limekiln

above Bolton Roughts, where we got on to a splendid trail, and found at Knowlmere; swam him an hour and a half, when Pilot caught him in the stream, and they worried him gloriously. It weighed eighteen pounds. Edward Petre and Eastwood joined us at Whitewell. T. Trappes and my brother Tom saw it all, and young Peel joined towards the end of the trail, which was magnificent all the way up. We lunched with Peel, and walked back to the Higher Bridge.

September 19th. Threw off at Hodder Foot. Had a good trail to the bottom of Bolton Roughts; crossed over the fields to the Limekiln, and tried to Doeford Bridge, where the trail did not improve. Tried Browsholme fish ponds, where they said an otter had been seen several times. No hunt. T. and C. Trappes and my brother Tom out.

September 20th. Tried Barton Brook. The otter had left. Cut across to Garstang; tried three miles up. No go.

October 2nd. Met at the Higher Bridge in Hodder, at eight o'clock. Hunted an otter across the road going from the Red Pump to Clitheroe and back again. Finding the Hodder rather high, we cut up to above Stakes, whence we had a good trail to a little above Newton, where Random made a beautiful find of a bitch otter in some calling at a quarter past one o'clock. We lost the otter for a long time; at last we recovered it amongst some calling, where it could not get far in. It beat us into another drain running right up the road; at last we got her out and worried her, a little after five o'clock. T. and C. Trappes and young Peel out. Left the hounds at Newton and walked back to the Higher Bridge with J. Westell.

October 9th. Met at Mitton Bridge; the river being high, hunted up Calder to Hyndburn Foot. Did not find. Edward Petre, T. and C. Trappes out.

October 16th. Threw off at Mitton Bridge at eight o'clock. Found a fine dog otter at Hodder Foot. Killed him at Hacking Boat drain. He weighed twenty-six pounds. Charles Trappes, etc., out.

October 24th. Met at Ribchester Bridge at half-past eight. Found a fine dog otter at the stream between Hough Deep and Sale Wheel;

swam it four hours and three-quarters, and called off. Herman Walmesley, T. Trappes, my brother Tom, John Lawson, and P. Mosley out. A very wet morning, the river strong, a capital otter, and exceedingly well hunted. It went once to the foot of Ree Deep, and beautifully a second time to the rocks below the Troughs. I was not anxious to kill, or it could have been done easily, as Royal was marking the otter under a root below the bank at the Troughs, just after we had called off.

November 8th. Turned out the tame otter by the garden in some sticks, and afterwards swam it in the pond by Bonny's and killed it. It weighed twelve pounds and a half. T. Trappes out.

1862.

March 16th. A cub otter about three months old was killed at Pathorne Bridge. The bitch and two other young ones were seen the night after near the Bridge.

April 22nd. Met at the Higher Bridge. The river being rather high, cut up to the top of Bolton Roughs. Had scarcely any trail till we got to the drain above Whitewell. Found beautifully about a mile above Thorneyholme (London and Rover). Swam it well two hours and a half, and were just about to kill when the water came down, nearly bank full, so we were obliged to call off. The Philosophers from Stonyhurst mustered strong. Young Reginald Weld stayed to the finish. A dreadfully rough wet day. Charles Trappes out. The otter seemed about fourteen pounds' weight.

May 1st. Met at Mitton Bridge. Had a good trail to Hodder Foot. Tried up to Hodder Place; had but a cold trail. Tried back to Hacking Boat, and nothing better. Returned to Mitton Bridge, and had a fair hunt to a root about half-way between Sidell's Pit and Eastford Bridge, where we found two otters, and after a swim of two hours and a half, killed a fine dog otter, twenty-two pounds and a half weight, Pilot catching him gallantly in the stream above Henthorn Brook, and young Reginald Weld siezing him and sticking pluckily to him in the middle of the river. C. Trappes and the Stonyhurst Philosophers out, and all

much delighted. Promised Weld this skull. Leader bit him in the leg in the fray.

May 7th. Threw off at the top of Bolton Roughts. Had no hunt till we came to Lily Holme, just above the barn, which stands on the opposite side of the river. The hounds hit the trail up the wood, and across to the brook which runs into Hodder at Stakes. We hunted the otter down the brook to a rock hold about half-a-mile from Hodder, but could not tell whether it was there or had gone from there, as there had been very heavy rain all night.

May 13th. Threw off at the Higher Bridge on Hodder. Had a fair trail from below the Paper Mill to above Doeford Bridge, where the hunt began to improve. Found two otters in Lily Holme drain (Pilot), got the bitch otter out and swam her for about an hour. We could have killed both otters with ease but called off, as there was no one out but Charles Trappes and myself. Venture behaved well in the drain. Charles Trappes viewed the otter into the drain.

May 20th. Threw off at Glanywern Bridge, near Denbigh. Tried up to the mill below Ruthin; never a touch. Returned to Glanywern, and found about a mile below the next bridge over the Clwyd. Swam it two hours and a half, but the river was too high. Returned through Llanerch Park to St. Asaph. A large field out. A. Lascelles, Warburton, Colonel King, Charles Trappes, young Edward Hopwood, who was staying with me, out.

May 21st. Threw off at Pont-y-Doll on the Elwy. Had a cold trail to the foot of the river Aled, where the hounds hunted a glorious hot trail half across the field between the two rivers. We had not gone two hundred yards further up the river Elwy, when old Rockwood began to hunt the water, and out popped an old dog otter into the shallow, and seven or eight leading hounds being close up, they worried him before we could possibly save him. He weighed twenty-seven pounds. We had a beautiful trail of this otter to a couple of miles above Llanfair, when, finding no signs of any otter, called off.

May 23rd. Met a Clwyd Bridge, by St. Asaph, and after a beautiful

double trail for about a mile above the bridge, tried back, and found (Random) about a mile above the junction. We swam this otter splendidly for six hours and forty minutes, losing him only once for about half-an-hour, and quite convinced we should kill him. He had not a hold to creep into or we should have done so. Captain Thorne, Dick, etc., out, but did not stay to the end.

May 25th. Met again at Clwyd Bridge. Had a glorious trail right up, and found a dog otter about half a mile from Llanerch Park (Pilot), which we swam almost incessantly for nine hours and forty-five minutes and ran into in triumph at the very root where we first put him abroad. He bit Joseph Sympson's thumb-nail off in trying to get him on to the gravel bed. He was a remarkably good swimming otter, and young Edward Hopwood took him home to be stuffed. He weighed twenty-pounds. Charles did well.

May 26th. Threw off a little below Llanerch Park; got upon a red-hot trail a little above the house, and found about a mile above the bridge; swam it two hours and a half, and were just going to kill it, when it got into a rock hold, from which it could not be dislodged without great difficulty, so we coupled up. A large field out every day, composed of gentlemen in the neighbourhood, and from Rhyl, Chester, and Liverpool.

June 3rd. Met at the Red Pump. Had an excellent trail from above Stakes (where we threw off) to a little below Whitewell, where we found a young dog otter, and after a good chase and swim (for it often took to land), killed him at the head of the deep at the bottom of Lily Holme. He was about fifteen pounds' weight. Charles Trappes took it to be stuffed.

June 20th. Met at the Red Pump. Threw off a little below Newton, where there was a fair trail, which got worse as we went down. Tried to the High Bridge, where there was a very cold hunt.

June 27th. Met at Mitton Bridge. Had no trail till we got below Sykes' Farm, where the hounds found a fine dog otter all in a moment. The day was very stormy. We lost him and did not find him again till we got nearly opposite the Troughs, where we had a beautiful swim

with him for nearly three hours, and called off, leaving him venting up Ree Deep dreadfully blown. We could have killed him with ease, but did not want to do so, as few people were out, and it was too wild a day to send up to Stonyhurst. It was a large and merry otter.

June 29th. A young dog otter, about fifteen pounds' weight, was found with a strong trap attached to his fore foot, a little below Hyndburn Bridge. Turned it out at the bottom of the meadow next day. It was all right.

July 17th. Met at the Red Pump. Started below Newton; found the river quite a flood.

July 27th. Threw off at Mitton Bridge. Had a splendid trail to Moyser Wood, where little Randy found a fine otter on the Hodder Place side of the river. Swam it nearly eight hours and lost it at Hill Hole in Calder, at last. It went into the lower part of Calder several times, and down once as far as Jumbles. Tom and Charles Trappes, Hopwood, Mrs. and Mr. Potter out.

July 28th. Met at Ribchester Bridge. Threw off above Hothersall Hall. Had a capital trail down to below Sunderland Hall. Thought the otter had gone up; tried up to Stone Hole, above Sale Wheel; returned to below Sunderland, and found at Blizzar Rocks. After a good deal of uncertainty Random hit it up the river, and we had a splendid crash for half a mile. After swimming it some time we called off, as it was too late to kill, and the hounds were quite tired. The river was not low. T. and C. Trappes, Bates, Robert Smith and his boys, etc., were out.

August 14th. Met at Whitewell; tried up to above Newton (the river quite fresh). Found an old dog otter which bolted right away to a little above Mr. Peel's, where, after a great deal of puzzling work, Pilot recovered him under a strong shoot. After swimming him about half-an-hour, he took into the large drain opposite, where Royal found him beautifully. After a little terrier work, and digging four holes, we got him out and worried him in the field. He made a stout resistance. He

weighed twenty-five pounds. T. and C. Trappes and their cousin John, Dr. Russell and many others out. A very large field.

August 20th. Met at Mitton Bridge. Had an excellent trail to the Lower Bridge in Hodder. Thought there was an otter in the drain at Jumbles, but it missed being at home. Found at the stream below Ree Deep. Bothered after it for five hours to the Stone Hole and up to the Troughs, but had little sport; a most sultry day and the river rather high. Edward and Albert Petre, T. Trappes, my brother Thomas, etc., out.

August 26th. Met at Hornby at eight o'clock. The Lune quite strong. Had a trail of a small otter from Nab below Wenning Foot and found in the long deep below the railway bridge, at the Crook of Lune; swam it three hours, and called off.

August 27th. Met at Hornby at eight o'clock. A fine dewy morning. Tried up the Lune; came upon a rattling trail at Greta Foot. It was beautiful to see the hounds hunt the otter over and over again on the gravel bed, and on the green sward, and to watch them try the long deep below Borrow Hill so carefully and so well; any old woman could have gone with them; then they thundered on with still increasing melody beneath the woods of Borrow Hall, where they came all at once to a crashing roar all around a big plane tree root. There his lordship had taken up his lodgings for the day, but his dream was horribly disturbed by the baying of the hounds, the shouting of the field, and the tottering of his mansion about his ears by the jumping of a score of keen fellows on the bank above him. After full five minutes of the greatest possible excitement, out he came wrestling and fighting through five or six hounds into the Lune; he was saluted with such a shout that it brought all Kirkby Lonsdale, which was about a mile off, to the fun; and a glorious time of fun it was for about two hours, up the stream and down the stream, through the deep and back again, into the willows and out again, till he was dead beat, and James Westell, by his master's orders, carried him on to the grass bank at Borrow Mill, and they worried him with all the honours. He was dreadfully torn by the hounds and weighed twenty-three pounds when they got him in Greta.

August 28th. Threw off at Lune Bridge, above Hornby, at half-past eight, and had a trail better, if possible, than the day before, there having been two otters stirring in the night. It was the very perfection of a hunting morning, dewy, still and bright, though the river was still very strong. All was music, and hope, and gladness to the dullest capacity till we reached Arkholme, where the trail ceased, the otters having doubled back. The hounds were now coupled up, and spades and pickaxes were in request, to try a usually frequented drain, at the mouth of which the hounds had hunted most energetically on their way up. After making two or three holes into the drain, Venture and Crab bolted a small bitch otter into the Lune at a very disadvantageous place for hounds in a strong water, which it was at present. However, in she went with every advantage in her favour, and though she was kept constantly moving by the hounds, was not seen above half a dozen times during the first three hours venting amongst the willow bushes, and stealing up occasionally under a hanging steep wooded strong hold where no one could get at her. The hounds had stiff trying swimming against the current. We had lost her for a short time, when the master of the hounds made rather a higher cast up the river above the hanging wood, and behold (Random and Rattler), found the old dog otter under a strong seeming hold, whence, however, the hounds and terriers soon dislodged him, and he was soon in the willowy stream where his partner had found them so much work. Two otters in such a locality was no joke, as they got off one on to the other, never knowing which they found. At length, in about an hour, as luck would have it, the old gentleman, calling once or twice at a strong hold of willows on his way, stole down to the deep above the bridge, where he boldly assaulted several hounds underneath the hollow bank, and then, steering to the middle of the Lune, took a good survey of his assailants, who made the beautiful valley re-echo again with their shouts. It was plain to be seen that he was about as large again as that bolted from the drain. As the river was less rapid here, and as they got him single-handed, all now was joy and excitement, and loud was the shout and wild was the joy when he showed his grey chin above the water, or encountered the hounds among the bushes, which he did twice above Lune Bridge, showing more valour than discretion. Great were the exertions to prevent his passing over the bridge,

where the water was more disadvantageous, but all to no effect, for old Rockwood would have it he was down, and so it proved to be. This was rather a sickener, as the sun was sinking fast. Notwithstanding, away they swam him breast high full half-a-mile below, when, pressing, they passed him; they were called back, and again they recovered him, and again they took him full cry down the Lune, finding him once or twice amongst the willows, though he kept well out of sight. There was now a check for a quarter of an hour, and he could not be found up or down. Then old Ruler and Singer were sent across to try a suspicious-looking root under a thickly-wooded bank, just below the bridge, where the old fellows hit him up into the wood, to the inexpressible delight of the screaming field. The pack were all together in no time and such a tumult followed as baffles all description. For twenty minutes they ran him in cover, now seemingly making direct for the bridge, now following the wall bounding the turnpike road, now coming down as if straight to the river, now rushing to the very extremity of the cover, now actually getting into the road, now trying a large culvert beneath it, whence he was soon dislodged by the terriers, trying any dodge up and down, backwards and forwards, till at length, finding he could not shake them off, in he comes about six yards before them into the Lune as strong as a horse, for he never vented till he got forty yards into the deep. He was not seen again for half-an-hour, though the hounds kept finding him in the deep under the hollow bank, where there was plenty of shelter for him. Hark to Rover and Random! They're at him again under a strong hold below the bridge; awhile he fights, and away he steals before his assailants are more numerous. Up the deep and down the deep in vain they try to find him; in vain numberless eyes are on the river on both sides. For ten minutes all is quiet. The master of the pack cuts down to nearly half-a-mile below, and, trying back, Leader finds him resting at a willow bush. Then London discovers him a few yards below, and both sail about to the middle of the Lune, when "a vent! a vent!" from a hundred tongues proclaims that he is swimming before them right up the river. For about a quarter of a mile he now swam up with several couples of hounds after him, venting about every ten yards before him. This was his death warrant, for with difficulty he again took to land, and for ten minutes battled all his foes, though nine

couples of hounds and five terriers and no end of sportsmen cheering them on, were on his track. At length, blown and run to a standstill, the hounds ran into him and soon his tattered garments showed the power and savageness of his foes. Never was a "woo-hoop" given with heartier glee, never was an otter better hunted or better discovered by hounds. He was a fine dog otter, nearly twenty-one pounds' weight, and was presented to Mr. Foster, of Hornby Castle, to be stuffed. The field was very numerous in the morning, but many thought the case hopeless and retired. Nothing but the most consummate skill, perseverance, and perfection of hounds could have killed this otter, considering the state of the river and the disadvantage of having swum the bitch otter three hours previously. The swim altogether lasted eight hours and three-quarters. It is quite a pity to think that an otter skin must be torn by hounds, for this pack have killed six dog otters this season averaging twenty-three pounds weight each, and all have been much torn and mangled, some so much that you could have inserted a large egg into the cavity. T. and C. Trappes and my brother Thomas were staying with me at Hornby, and we had a large field out every day.

September 9th. Met at Croston Hall at nine o'clock. Had a good trail up Yarrow from the foot of Lostock Brook to Pinnock Bridge, below which the hounds hunted an otter into a drain which went under the river. Dug a long time, but could make nothing of it. Lunched at Eccleston Rectory, after trying well back. A very large and aristocratic field out: Lord Skelmersdale, Sir Thomas G. Hesketh, Sir H. de Trafford, Lady Elizabeth Cathcart, Mr. and Mrs. Sparling, a brother of Lord Pomfret, several officers, Mr. Anderton, of Euxton; in fact, all the neighbourhood. Sent on hounds and went back by train with Thomas Trappes; did not like stopping to hunt another day as the weather was very doubtful, and several fields of wheat and oats were still uncut.

September 12th. Threw off below Hothersall Hall in Great Ribble, had a good trail to Blizzar Rocks, where we found a fine dog otter. Swam him four hours, had lost him awhile, and recovered him about one hundred yards above Tom Brook. He immediately took to the wood and got under a stray shoot, whence we could not dislodge him. A dashing otter. T. Trappes, F. Trappes, and young Chadwick, etc., out.

September 18th. Threw off at Mitton Bridge. Had a splendid trail up Little Ribble, and found (about a quarter of a mile below Eastford Bridge) a fine dog otter. Swam him half-an-hour and killed him. He weighed twenty-one pounds and a half. We should have swum him two hours, but he got under a root, and the hounds pulled him out and worried him. Tried to Ribchester afterwards. Thomas and Charles Trappes out.

September 25th. Met at Ribchester Bridge. Threw off above Sunderland Hall. Trailed an otter over the fields to Jackson Banks, where we found, and, after some puzzling, lost it (I think) under a very strong root a little above. Tried down nearly to the New Bridge. Thought there was an otter about Red Scar, but could not find it. Returned back up the river, when we had a famous crash from Hothersall Hall over the fields about two miles to a brook above Mr. Addison's, near Ribchester. We could not mark it forward, but found we were hunting a bitch otter heel way. It was too late to try the drain at Hothersall, so we called off. C. Trappes and a number of people from Harwood out.

September 29th. Met at Ribchester Bridge at eight o'clock. Had a good trail up to Mitton Wood, and through into Calder. Ran by to the old drain which was stopped. Tried to Mitton Bridge and, returning to Hodder, hit an otter up Hodder, and finding we had passed him at Sandal Holme, tried back, and found him in a rocky place on the Chaighley side, a little below the Paper Mill Farm. After some terrier work he bolted, and the first time he was found again was just above the Higher Bridge; some people on the bridge could see him go down about twenty yards before the hounds. Swam him till the four hounds I had with me were quite done; I was expecting the other hounds every minute. As they did not come for an hour, the otter got a long rest. We recovered him again and swam him some time about half a mile below the Bridge. But the river being very high and dark and the sun going down, we called off. A very large field out. Edward Petre, Charles Tempest, a lot of officers of the 16th Lancers from Preston, Charles Trappes, and several people from Harwood out. We could have killed this otter had we

found him sooner in the day. It seemed to be a dog otter about twenty pounds' weight.

October 7th. Met at the Red Pump. Threw off at the top of Bolton Roughs. Had a magnificent trail to the drains above Whitewell. Could not tell which drain the otter was in. Charles Trappes out.

October 10th. Threw off at Mitton Bridge. Had a good trail to a little below Eastford Bridge; returned and tried up to the Lower Bridge in Hodder, near Jumbles drain. Had a splendid trail of two otters to Stone Holc, where we found them both, one going right up and the other right down; swam them four hours and a half, and had one of them under a strong hold below Sale Wheel. We dug a short time, but it being too late to kill it if it came out, we called off and walked home. Lord de Tabley, and Mainwaring were present towards the latter end. Charles Trappes and a lot from Harwood out.

HOUNDS, 1862:

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|-----------|----------|---------|----------|
| SINGER. | ROYAL. | PILOT. | LONDON. |
| ROCKWOOD. | CHEATER. | LEADER. | LASHER. |
| DIAMOND. | RANDOM. | ROVER. | RATTLER. |
| DASHWOOD. | SAILOR. | COMELY. | RULER. |

1863.

February 5th. My brother Tom brought over a fine dog otter with its fore foot broken by a steel trap on Mr. Cuncliff's premises, near Gawley. We worried it the day after finding it would never improve.

February 10th. A young bitch otter was brought over by the son of Mr. Cuncliff's. Rufus, which I purchased as it was only a little hurt in one hind foot. Got a letter to say that a bitch otter (apparently with young) caught below Barton was at Pattie House at Halton. Sent James Westell over to enquire about it. It was dead.

April 30th. Met at Mitton Bridge. Had some good hunting (considering the morning) about the meeting of the rivers, as far as Ree Deep; returned and found at Dum Jordan; got it out once after some

digging, but could never bolt him afterwards. A large field from Stonyhurst out.

May 5th. Met at Ribchester Bridge; a very rough morning; no one came; hunted down to Cock Bridge.

May 8th. Threw off at Mitton Bridge. Ribble and Hodder rather strong. Found as Ree Deep, and, after a merry swim of an hour and a half, killed a young dog otter about thirteen pounds' weight. Had an excellent trail to Ribchester Bridge afterwards. Charles Trappes, etc., out.

May 21st. Threw off at Martholme. Had a rattling trail from Sabden Brook Foot to a root below Moreton, opposite the end of Bank's Wood, where we had a glorious find, and swam a dog otter (above twenty pounds) for two hours and a quarter. He was obliged through sheer exhaustion to creep out at last under a root, where they worried him. This was an excellent swim, and very scientific, as the otter kept constantly in the water amongst the cobs the whole of the time, and was seldom seen.

May 26th. Threw off at Mitton Bridge. Had an excellent trail from near Hodder Place to a little below Paper Mill, where we thought we found, but could not dislodge him. After some digging the terriers ceased to mark. We tried all the way back to Mitton, but could not find. I think he was in the hold near the Paper Mill. T. Trappes and Hargreaves out.

June 2nd. Threw off below Hothersall Hall, below Ribchester. Had a splendid trail from Stubbins Deep to the old corner at Blizzar Rocks, where we found the old dog and bitch and two young otters. The hounds killed one cub, and we caught the other unhurt. We hunted the dashing old dog three hours and a half. He went as far up as Elston Hall, venting constantly, and we were expecting to kill him every minute, making downwards towards the ferry, when he took to land on the bare side of the river, and got through the hedge into a drain in a wheat field, Bowler and Fury doing their best to stop him, but in vain. It was a very fine otter, Joseph Sympton being close to him as he went through

the hedge. Payley, the farmer, gave us permission to dig in the wheat, but as the terriers could not run the drain, after opening a hole at either end, we gave it up. T. Trappes and myself only out. A beautiful day, and the river in good order.

June 15th. Breakfasted at the Red Pump. Threw off at Tosspot above Stakes, in Hodder. Had an excellent double trail of a very large otter nearly to Whitewell; turned back, and tried down to the top of Bolton Roughs (where there was another good trail), but did not find. The water rather strong.

June 22nd. Threw off at Mitton Bridge. Found (Pilot) at Hill Hole at the foot of Calder; swam it six hours, but could not kill, the water rising on us. The swim was capital for two hours. We had some impression that there were two otters.

June 25th. Breakfasted at Whitewell at nine o'clock. Mrs. Lomax, Miss Helen Lomax and their friends out. Had a capital trail to the top of Bolton Roughs, where we sealed him going right up; returned back to above Stakes, and found (Pilot) at a strong hollow bank below Lily Holme. After a good deal of jumping, etc., he bolted, and, after getting several squeezes on his way, and a short and merry swim of half-an-hour, was killed in Plumtree Hole. Herman Walmesley and sons and Rev. W. Dunderdale out. Dined at Whitewell.

July 1st. Met at Hacking Boat. Had a splendid trail to Stone Hole in Great Ribble, where we found and swam an otter six hours and a half, losing it in a most extraordinary manner amongst the cobs below the Troughs.

July 9th. Threw off at Mitton Bridge. Found in the drain close to Dum Jordan at the foot of Little Ribble; sent all the hounds but two couple of young ones back to Mitton Boat. Got the otter out in a very short time, little Pepper bolting him; sent for the hounds, and could never find him again for three hours, recovering him beautifully at last at Ree Deep, where, after swimming him for a short time he got under a clay shoot on the woody side, and after nearly three hours' work we gave

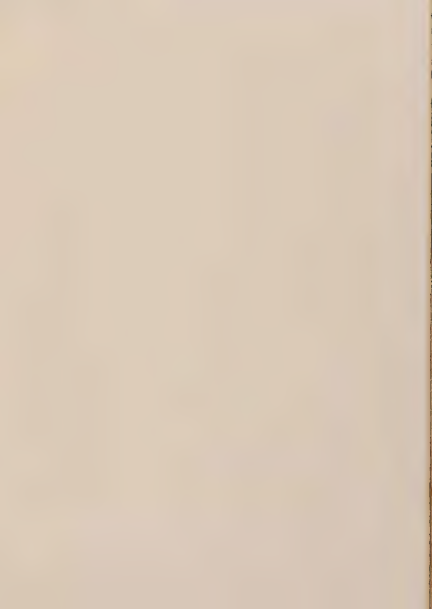
in to him. The Stonyhurst Philosophers, T. and C. Trappes, Potter, etc., out. A blazing day, and a fine dog otter.

July 14th. Breakfasted at Ribchester Bridge with T. and C. Trappes. Threw off at Hothersall Hall; had a beautiful trail from Jackson Banks to Red Scar, where we were puzzled as we tried back with the hounds hunting the water, which I could only account for by the otter having slipped abroad as we went down. They found at the old turn at Blizzar Rocks, and after a very puzzling swim of two hours and a half, ran into her on dry land in some bushes above the Boat Hole up the river. It was a very fine bitch otter.

July 20th. Met at Mitton Bridge at half-past eight. Trailed a fine dog otter to the turn above the bridge, where we found he had doubled back; had a very curious down-bank trail to Stone Hole, where he went abroad like a dart; swam him three hours and called off at the Troughs Boat Hole, where we could soon have finished him had we wished to do so. As only Charles Trappes and myself were out, we left him for another day. The river was low, and the day perfection.

July 28th. Threw off at Hornby at eight o'clock. An immense field out. Found in the drain above the bridge. Tried down whilst they were digging and hunted another otter over the field into the drain below the bridge. Little Pepper was much punished in the drain by the crowd pushing and staring at the mouth to see him bolt. Swam him two hours and ten minutes, and ran into him above the bridge. Got some fresh hounds whilst they were digging the other drain, out of which, after some trouble, bolted a fine bitch otter about seventeen pounds' weight, which flew over the field with the terriers and whelps, and was killed at the root nearest the lower side of the bridge, after a merry and most exciting scene of forty-five minutes. Horsefall, young Gillow, and all the neighbourhood were out.

July 29th. Met again at Hornby village at eight o'clock. James Westell coming down from Tunstall with old Royal, and finding no hunt, we started down Wenning, and came upon a glorious double trail at the junction of the rivers; it was a fine dog otter; we hunted him into a





FOUGART HOUNDS.

drain about a mile below, which little Jack entered merrily, and in about ten minutes came back with a bloody nose. So all was right. We made several holes, and, after a good deal of difficulty, turned the otter out over the field into the Lune, thinking he would do wonders, it lasted us an hour, the river being so clear and low, and all appearing safe. After swimming him about half-an-hour the hounds marked him on the bank side and we thought he had left us; the hounds kept hunting the water below but we could not find him again. A lad said he could seal him into a drain near the railway, but the hounds would not have it, so we were obliged reluctantly to give in to him. Left the hounds at Caton. Captain Thornhill, Mr. Hill of Edinburgh, C. and T. Trappes out.

July 30th. Threw off at Caton, and hunted an otter beautifully down to the old root below Halton Hall. Swam him eight hours and killed him under an old elm root about fifty yards below the bridge leading to Halton Station. He weighed twenty-four pounds. Sent his skin for a rug to York. A full account appeared in the *Field*.

August 12th. Killed eight brace of grouse on Hawksworth Moor.

August 17th. Met at Gisburn at nine o'clock. Threw off below Mr. York's whence we had a moderate trail to Long Preston Deep, but could not find. The hounds kept continually hunting the water, but never found where an otter had lain. The drains were all open and we dug for a considerable time at one of them, thinking by the terriers that the otter was in, but made nothing of it. Tried back to Gisburn Mill, but never got on to a fresh hunt. Mr. Mat Wilson and a party from Gargrave, J. Peel, T. and C. Trappes, etc., out.

August 26th. Threw off at Whitewell; had an excellent double trail from the Stone Bridge above the Inn to above Mr. Peel's house; turned back, and found an otter in the higher of the usual drains above Whitewell. Randolphus de Trafford and Lady Adelaide just drove up to the Inn as the hounds were leaving for home.

September 1st. Met at Glanywern Bridge near Denbigh. Had a short trail down to the bad deep below the Red House at the next bridge down the Clwyd. Tried to the foot of Clwyd. No hunt.

September 2nd. Tried from Llanerch Park up to Glanywern Bridge, then the Clywedog, then crossed and tried Denbigh Brook, several miles ; no hunt. There had been an otter in the latter brook.

September 4th. Met at Llanfair on the Elwy. Had a short trail of about two miles above Mr. Wynne's, but could not find.

September 5th. Had a good trail at the lower end of the Clwyd, but did not find ; we got wet and came home the same day. T. and C. Trappes stayed with me at St. Asaph.

September 17th. Met at the Red Pump. Threw off above Stakes. Tried up to the drain above Whitewell, where we first hit upon a trail ; sealed the otter down at the foot of Dunsop. After trying Langden and Hodder, returned and opened the drain, and Venture soon showed proof of the otter's presence. We got her out, and, after swimming about an hour, she got into the lower end of the drain again, whence, being again bolted, she made a merry swim of an hour and five minutes, when the hounds worried her, Charles Trappes lifting her up by the tail. It was an old bitch otter. Mr. Taylor, Lord de Tabley's son, Manwaring, etc., out.

1864.

March 30th. Threw off at Mitton Bridge at nine o'clock. Tried Hodder to Lily Holme. Blank.

April 7th. James Westell tried with a couple of hounds from above Mr. Peel's house down to Whitewell without a sign of an otter.

April 12th. Took the hounds by train to Preston, and met at Preston Four Lane Ends at half-past ten. Tried by the front of Barton Lodge. Turned down the brook and found an old dog otter at a quarter past eleven. Swam him four hours and a quarter and killed him gloriously just where the mill-race goes under the canal. Robert Westell brought him out. Swam to a standstill. They stopped the mill to prevent his going below, but we never got the water lowered as the miller was from home. Lots of people witnessed the fun. The otter weighed twenty-four pounds ; he had recently had one of his hind feet in a trap. T. and

C. Trappes drove to Preston and returned after a good dinner at the Bull, which we all enjoyed much after our day's sport.

April 16th. Threw off at Mitton Bridge. Had a slight trail down Great Ribble, which improved at Stone Hole. Found an otter at the stream below Sale Wheel. One or two hounds got hold of it before it got abroad. Swam it about half-an-hour down to the stones below Hough Deep, where we found a cub otter, seven or eight pounds' weight, a young dog, which we caught unhurt and turned out again nearly opposite Stone Hole in a strong Plane tree root. T. and C. Trappes out.

April 21st. Breakfasted at Sawley. Had a red-hot trail into the Otter's Well, which had not been stopped. Tried up to Squire York's drain. No hunt.

April 27th. Threw off at Croston Hall at ten o'clock. Tried up to above Eccleston Church with nothing but a cold trail; returned (very hot), and hit upon a good hunt at the bridge below the village; had a splendid hunt up to Lostock for several miles by the turnings of the river. Turned back, and found in a deep drain, which the hounds were very fond of as we went up. Little Jack sent the otter out like a lamp-lighter at a hole we had made high in the field. She turned in again, sending Jack before her. After getting Jack out we introduced Crab, who sent her into the Lostock in double quick time, and we killed after a merry and excellent swim of one hour and a quarter. It was a bitch otter about fourteen pounds' weight. Tom Parker, John Bleasdale, Rand. de Trafford, and son were out. The otter was presented to the latter to be stuffed. Stayed all night at Croston Hall. There was not a sign of another otter, so we returned by train.

May 4th. Met at Mitton Bridge. Had a trail at the lower end of Hodder; cut across by Syke's Farm, and had a good hunt to the top of Ree Deep; tried down to Stone Hole; returned back and had a red-hot hunt twice through Mitton Wood and back to Calder. Found a young otter at Hill Hole, and called off. Mr. Potter's keeper had seen an old otter and two young ones swimming about at Dum Jordan, at nine o'clock in the morning, the day but one before. Charles was out.

May 12th. Threw off at Bolton Bridge at eight o'clock. Had a very cold, puzzling trail down to the first mill dam, below where we found on the east side of the river, near the weir at a very strong hollow bank. After a little jumping, out he steered right up the deep and vented in the middle. It was just nine o'clock when he went abroad, and it was four o'clock when we killed him, Joseph Atkinson tailing him rather sharply just above the top of the deep. He would not have swum half the time, but the hands all turning out, and the mill stopping, kept the water quite up to the roots. At last Mr. Lister got them to lower the water about a foot, when we kept him going merrily. I never saw hounds do better, and everyone was delighted. Mr. and Mrs. Lister, Tennant, Robinson, Middleton, Blundell, Tom and Charles Trappes, out, and hundreds of men, women and children screamed with delight. The otter weighed twenty-two pounds. Gave it to the gamekeeper, Farfield Hall.

May 13th. Started at Bolton Bridge at eight o'clock, and trailed an otter below Addingham, but could not find. Had some lunch sent from Middleton Lodge. Tried all the way back to Bolton Abbey, but could not find. Thought the otter might be at Addingham drain, where they might not be able to wind it as the water was quite up to rocks. Mr. Horsefall, etc., out. Dined at Bolton Bridge and got home, hounds and all, by ten o'clock.

May 24th. Met at Langho at nine o'clock, and tried down to below Red Scar, but did not find, though we had an excellent trail all the way from Hothersall Hall. Walked back to Langho and sent the hounds over Mellor; merely wanted to see whether there was anything in that part of the Ribble.

May 31st. Threw off at Lune Bridge, above Hornby, at half-past seven o'clock. Had a fine trail up the back-water to the drain at Tunstall; tried back, and found a fine dog otter in the usual drain above the bridge; tried to get it down below the bridge, but could not keep the crowd back. A couple of hounds had a short scuffle with him just under the bridge. However, a man pulled the otter from them and got into the deep below. Whether it was a sluggish beast, or had got too much

blown, as the water was uncommonly low, I know not ; however, they ran into it in the wood, just three-quarters of an hour after it was put abroad. Mr. Foster took the otter to be stuffed, but it had a hind foot previously cut off for Colonel King. We had an immense field out from all quarters.

June 1st. Threw off at Hornby Bridge at eight o'clock. James Westell had tried up to the top of the wood at the end of the Holme, where he said there was a good trail. Tried up nearly to Kirkby Bridge, to which there was a tolerable trail (it was a miserable scenting day), but it sealed down. We turned back, and could not hunt it a yard beyond the first long open deep above Greta Foot. Tried all the way down to Hornby Bridge, where the hounds went abroad, and apparently swam an otter for three hours and a half. The day was very windy, and it was never fairly marked or seen. Old Pilot thought it was in the old drain above the bridge, but it was "no go." Gave it up as a puzzler. A large field out.

June 2nd. Tried to Kirkby Bridge, and down nearly to Caton ; not a touch nor a foot.

June 30th. Threw off at Mitton Bridge. Tried down to Ribchester Bridge. No hunt ; the water high.

July 6th. Met at Mitton. Had a beautiful trail from Hacking Boat to Sale Wheel ; returned, and bolted a small bitch otter out of Hacking drain ; swam it some time, and called off. C. and T. Trappes out.

July 19th. Met at Ribchester Bridge, and tried down to below Red Scar. Had an excellent double trail above and below Ribchester and up Showley Brook, and a cold trail from Jackson Banks. Tried back about Hothersall and Showley, but could not find. T. Trappes and young Frank, from Paris, out.

July 26th. Threw off at Sawley Bridge, the otter hole being stopped and the large cave in the wood at Fooden having candles left burning in it till after daylight. We had a splendid trail for a short distance, but the otter sealed in and out of the cave, and, of course, all was up.

We tried to Sisburn Mill, but had no further hunt. Some officers from Preston, Major Williamson, Captain Whittle, T. Trappes, etc., out.

August 4th. Threw off at Mitton Bridge; had a magnificent trail from Hacking Hall to below Ree Deep, over to the brook from Luke Lum and all up and down Ree Deep Wood. Thought the otters were in Calder. Tried down, and had another beautiful trail from Ribchester Bridge to the drain at Hothersall Hall. Isherwood, the watcher, said he saw three otters (he thought all young ones) go under a shoot above Showley Brook Foot at five o'clock in the morning. Tried to Jackson Banks. Had no trail further. T. and C. Trappes out.

August 17th. Breakfasted at Mitton, and threw off at the bridge at eight o'clock. Had a fair trail from Hacking Boat to Hothersall Hall, where we thought the cubs were. Tried on, and got upon a good trail at Jackson Banks, and found an old bitch otter at Blizzar Rocks; swam it an hour and killed it in the stream above Red Scar. T. Trappes, Mr. Cross and family, young Mr. Jowet, Potter and his brother-in-law were up at the kill. Mr. Parker of Browsholme and his cousin got no further than Ribchester Bridge.

August 23rd. Met at Sawley at nine o'clock. Had an excellent trail from the Otter's Well to Gisburn Mill, where the hounds hunted an otter into a drain, but the terriers did not seem keen; tried forward, and had at times a good hunt to considerably above Adam's Hole, and got past all hunt just below Halton Bridge. Tried two drains on our way back; blank; and then made for the drain below Gisburn Bridge; Crab being introduced at the top end bolted an old bitch otter immediately, which returned back to her old quarters directly. As the river was very low, we coupled all the hounds up to give her a better chance, when, to our surprise, she had bolted right through the drain into the wood, and a merry rattle we had, the otter just beating the pack by about ten yards into the river opposite the large drain at the bottom of the long Holme above Gisburn Mill Deep. After swimming some time, she retreated into a drain which goes up to the cellar at Gisburn Park, from which Crab dislodged her after a long tussle. At length she contrived to

get into another short drain by the brook, where Crab again marked her and where Crouner and Ringwood roared away at her in grand style. We finished her with a glorious worry. It was a bitch otter sixteen pounds weight. There was a large field out at one time. Peel and his brother, Mr. Littledale, Mr. Potter and his son, Chapman, Miss Littledale (six years old), T. and C. Trappes, and some good sportsmen from Blackburn. The Rev. Mr. Evans, curate of Great Harwood, was nowhere.

August 30th. Met at Red Pump at nine o'clock. Tried up to Thornyholme; not a symptom of an otter. I never saw hounds try better. T. and C. Trappes, Chapman, etc., from Mitton Hall, out.

September 27th. Tried down Calder from Hyndburn Foot with four couple of hounds; hit off a trail at the meetings, and had a beautiful find of a fine dog otter lying loose in Brig Heywood below Head Hall. I tallyhoed him into the Calder. Had the Martholme drain stopped immediately and sent off for the hounds and little Randy, the otter having got into the drain running up the orchard, where Comely was marking him. After digging a couple of holes at two short by-drains, Viper and Randy bolted his lordship over the meadows, and with Crouner and Ringwood, fought him into the Calder. They held him so tight that I was obliged to catch him by the "pother" and swing him into the river. He seemed to be about twenty-two pounds weight, and had a very long tail. We swam him down some distance, and then called off as he was quite beat.

October 13th. Started at Hyndburn Foot with four couple of hounds; had a brilliant trail as far as Whalley; tried on to Ribchester Bridge with a cold hunt; returned home over the hills. Heard of some young otters having been seen below Ribchester.

1865.

January 19th. One of Mr. Hargreave's keepers saw a bitch otter and two young ones at daylight by a hollow bank opposite Sykes' Farm, in Great Ribble. He caught one of the cubs as it ran over his foot, and let it go again. The old otter screamed at him, and seized the other

cub in her mouth and carried it into the hold. I sent Henry Westell to look after them, and the keeper promised that no one should harm them.

February 14th. Robert Westell shot a dusky grebe in the Hyndburn. A severe frost.

March 13th. Sent James Westell to Mr. O. Jones, near Carnarvonshire, about buying some of his otter hounds, of which he advertised twelve and a half couples for sale. They were no bigger than terriers, but had killed sixty otters in three years in that neighbourhood.

April 24th. Breakfasted at the Red Pump, and threw off at the top of Bolton Roughs. Never saw a symptom of an otter till Pilot "feathered" upon a large stone below Thorneyholme (Eastwards). Found a nice otter about a mile above. Swam it an hour and three-quarters, and called off. Could have killed it in another quarter of an hour. It was a cute otter. Charles Trappes out, and the ladies of Thorneyholme saw part of the swim. The hounds behaved well.

May 9th. Threw off at Mitton Bridge. Had a down-bank trail from Hodder Place; tried down to Ree Deep; returned, hunted through Mitton Wood into Calder; called off. But Westell being pretty certain that he had an otter in Egg Syke drain, having sent the hounds home, we put a sack at the drain mouth, and little Vick sent him out beautifully into it. We let the young hounds see it, and mark it well in the Otter Place at Clayton, then opened the door and let it go, giving it about ten minutes' law. The young hounds all hunted it well into Hyndburn, and old London found it again at the otter drain at the foot of Hyndburn. We could not get him out. He seemed a thick dog otter about twenty or twenty-one pounds' weight.

May 17th. Threw off at Bolton Bridge at nine. Had a trail to about three miles above the Strid (bad hunting morning); tried back down to Addingham; did not find. Water high. A large field out.

May 18th. Threw off at Bolton Bridge. Had an excellent trail to a mile above where we had hunted the day before, where the otter sealed up. Could not find. A good field out. I think there were two otters, and that they had gone down.

May 27th. Threw off at Mitton Bridge at eight o'clock. Never sealed an otter till we got to Jackson Banks, where there had been a small otter a day or two before. Tried on to Blizzar Rocks, where we found a fine otter, and swam him two hours and a half. He bit old Pilot and Comely before he went abroad. We left him down at Red Scar. I walked back with Charles Trappes to Hacking Hall, and then to Whalley, where James Westell met me with the dog-cart, about a quarter past seven.

June 1st. Met at the Red Pump. Threw off at Froth Pot, where a fine otter sealed up. The hounds could not hunt it. Sealed him up just below Whitewell. Had a cold hunt below the drain above Whitewell, and just below Langden Foot. Tried nearly to Knowlmere; could neither seal nor hunt it any further. Lunched at Whitewell, and walked back to the Red Pump. Tom and Charles Trappes out.

June 8th. Threw off at Mitton Bridge at eight o'clock, and tried down to Red Scar. Had a poor trail about Jackson Banks and Stubbins Deep; did not find. Got to Red Scar exactly at twelve o'clock. Tom and Charles Trappes out. Met my dog-cart at Ribchester Bridge.

June 14th. Threw off at Mitton Bridge. Had an excellent trail from Jumbles drain to Ribchester. Returned and found a fine dog in the drain. Comely and Viper behaved well. It took two hours and a half to make him bolt. The whole pack went abroad with him at a tremendous crash. After swimming him above two hours we called off. We could not kill him, it was too late, and the hounds were tired. It was an awfully hot day. Poor Viper died at night, I thought from heat. T. and C. Trappes out.

June 20th. Threw off at Hornby at eight o'clock. A blazing hot day. Tried to Caton. Blank. Got on to a trail below the Penny Bridge, and had a beautiful find under a root, about a quarter of a mile below the railway bridge. Swam him two hours and a half merrily, now up at the rocks above the bridge, now at the very bottom of the deep above a mile below. He then crept into a drain, where they might have worried him, but, wishing to show more sport, drove him out over

land with Crab and Pepper, to whom he gave a very warm reception ; so said their bloody noses, when examined by the alarmed spectators of their gamesomeness. Seemingly much refreshed by this temporary retreat, the valiant otter again dashed up above the railway bridge, to the delight of some hundred spectators who had a bird's eye view of his manœuvres, and who made all echo again with their enthusiasm. Then he tried the shallow above, and would have been run into by the hounds had he not been headed back by too keen an amateur. There was a very puzzling rooty corner a little above the bridge where he showed a deal of science ; but old London would not let him rest, so he boldly took the wood, where he treated some of the younger hounds to a merry chase, they giving him all the musical honours. He again gains the Lune, and in a twinkling out he goes again for a longer crash, a more numerous orchestra shouting at his heels. Finding the music too crashing to be agreeable, after a jolly hunt he again gains the river, and passes through the archway of the bridge, unobserved by the excited multitude above and under the bridge. Now he swims venting before the pack, down to the very weir below ; twice he tries the sheltering root, and twice he narrowly escapes his roaring foes. He was now lost for some time ; as he was seen close to the weir, we supposed that he had dashed down the narrow current which rushed rapidly beneath the bridge. On returning back, the hounds marked him in a drain close where he had been lost. He was dug out of his obscurity, and worried gloriously. He weighed eighteen pounds.

July 17th. Met at Mitton Bridge at seven o'clock. Had a good trail about Jackson Banks and Stubbins Deep, below Ribchester. Tried below Elston, and came back again very carefully, but could make nothing of it. Fancied it was under a root under Dobbin Wood.

July 25th. Met at Ribchester Bridge at seven o'clock. James Westell having come up from Red Scar, and found no signs of an otter, tried up to Whalley. Blank. An otter was made up in Hill Hole Drain, by Sykes stopping it too early.

August 9th. Hunted an otter from the drain below Moreton, near the Stepping-Stones, passed Chew Mill Call, through Mitton Wood,

about a hundred yards up Hodder, then over the field to Little Ribble, and then to Eastford Bridge. Tried up to the Limekilns; returned, and tried a strong hold about a quarter of a mile below the bridge, where the hounds and terriers had a great notion, but could not positively mark him. Tried down to Ree Deep; had not a symptom of a hunt. Must have left it at the hold below Eastford Bridge. T. Trappes and Lowndes, etc., out.

August 30th. Threw off at Mitton Bridge at eight o'clock. Tried the whole of the Ribble to Jackson Banks, whence we had an excellent trail down to Walton Church, where the hounds hit off the otter into the Darwen, when we called off, it being too late for those heavy deeps above. We sealed a large otter in the Darwen. Got some refreshment at Halton, and met my dog-cart about two miles from Whalley. T. and C. Trappes and young Williamson were out.

September 1st. Had a good trail up Calder to Royle, but could not find.

September 9th. Met at Mitton. Had a fair hunt of a small otter, from a little above Bashall Lodge to Bolton Roughs. Tried back to Hodder Foot, but did not find. T. Trappes out.

September 13th. Met at Hothersall Hall, below Ribchester. Had a splendid trail from Jackson Banks to Blizzar Rocks. Found a bitch otter and a cub at the old root at the turn of the river; caught the young one alive, and hung it up in a sack at Samlesbury Hall. Swam the bitch for three hours; she had a very narrow escape from a root high up from the river, a little above the old Hall, regaining the river over the bare rocks. She got down to Red Scar, and beat us. The young otter died before we got it home. I think old Pilot had had hold of it. C. Trappes out. The hottest day this year, 120° in the sun, 83° in the shade.

September 21st. Met at Mitton Bridge at half-past seven o'clock, having stopped all the drains in Calder. Found, all in a moment (Wonder) a bitch otter at Ree Deep. After swimming twenty minutes, she took back into the wood and was killed directly. Weight, about fifteen pounds.

Tried down Ribble, and came on to a splendid trail just above Ribchester Bridge, which we hunted to Stubbins Deep. Tried on to Jackson Banks, but did not find. T. and C. Trappes out. Got a bad fall over a cliff and in no form for shooting.

September 26th. Threw off at Bolton Bridge at eight o'clock. Had a capital trail to a little above Middleton Lodge. Tried on nearly to Burnley, where there was nothing but a very cold trail. Tried both deeps at Addingham well back. Tried above Bolton Abbey, and had a beautiful find near three o'clock, at some islands about a quarter of a mile below the Strid. Swam it an hour and a half, and called off, being all but impossible to kill on account of the foul state of the river, which was as muddy as mud itself, owing to the repairing of a reservoir some miles above. An immense field out.

September 27th. Threw off below the Strid, and had a splendid trail to a couple of miles above Burnsall where the water was beautifully clear, but the otter had turned back into the muddy river. After trying a drain which the hounds had hunted twice into, we returned to Bolton Bridge.

September 28th. Met at Burnsall Bridge. Started at the Stepping Stones, above where there was a good trail, and a regular "burster" from the river soon afterwards, over a couple of stone walls for a quarter of a mile, then into the Wharfe again. It looked very like an otter making up his mind to go ahead, but we were disappointed, for he had not gone a yard further. They hunted him back down the river. Tried on nearly to Kelso Crag. No hunt.

October 5th. Having stopped the drain below the Stepping Stones at the bottom of Calder, threw off at Mitton Bridge at eight o'clock. Got on to a trail at the river end of Burnsall Wood. The otter had been in and out of Jumbles drain; had a good trail to Stone Hall, whence it began to get better and better with no end of it to Hothersall Hall, here we found a bitch otter amongst the heavy blocks of stones just below the house. We had a glorious swim of four hours, expecting every minute for the last half-hour to kill her, but she got a little further

underneath a huge block of stone close to the water, and we could not move her. She took to the land twice, once trying to work into the old drain above (which I had stopped), where I had a full view of her, and where she had a wonderful escape, rushing right through the hounds into the Ribble. It was a magnificent day, and altogether as good a hunt as could be seen. Crouner and Rattler particularly distinguished themselves. T. Trappes out and some Harwooders. Walked back to Whalley where I met my dog-cart.

October 10th. Two young otters were caught, one at Moreton Lodge and the other near Read Hall Lodge. Both bitches about seven or eight weeks old. Both died.

December 26th. Shot fifty-nine cock pheasants at Alsprings and Mill Wood, without a single hen. Captain Trappes and myself.

HOUNDS, 1865,

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| PILOT. | BOWLER. | DIAMOND. |
| LASHER. | CARVER. | ROVER. |
| RATTLER. | NUDGER. | WONDER. |
| DASHWOOD. | LONDON. | CROWNER. |
| RANDOM. | LEADER. | COBBLER. |
| COMELY. | CHANTER. | VENGEANCE. |

1866.

February 4th. Charles Trappes brought over a young bitch otter, apparently about two months old, which was caught at the Ribble House down at Sawley Bridge that morning. Ribble being quite a high flood, it took to eating rabbits directly.

April 19th. Heard the cuckoo at Hacking Hall. Tried down from Martholme with two couple of hounds. Hit upon a line below the boundary drain at Oil Houses, and hunted it through Mitton Wood, where we found that we were hunting heel way. Returned and old Pilot having a slight notion of marking in the field about sixty yards up the drain,

got a spade and took off a cover. Pilot went down the drain a considerable way, but not through it; but on returning, tried down Calder, as if he thought the otter had gone abroad. Carver (a young hound) then went up the drain a long way, but returned without finding the otter. We then put him in where the cover had been removed for Pilot and he went right through bolting the otter in grand style. We had a beautiful swim for an hour and twenty minutes, and then called off. Carver acted well. We could have caught this fine dog otter with the greatest ease.

April 20th. Hunted the otter we had left at Moreton to above Padiham. The trail went no further than the bridge opposite Gawthorpe. Tried a strong drain just above, but could make nothing of it. The old fellow had not called a dozen times between Martholme Ease and Gawthorpe, and there only for about a couple of yards at once. It was a bad hunting morning, and I never saw less trail.

May 3rd. Trailed an otter (which we knew was near Whalley the day before) up Calder to the delf near Pendle Bridge, below Carr Hall; put old Pilot, Comely, and Crab in at the top of a sort of tunnel which runs under the Marsden Road; sent a keeper to watch at the lower end, but he could not say for certain whether it was the otter or Crab he saw come out of the culvert. The hounds hunted down the river, but could not find it. Tried lower down again after a while, and the hounds still would have it in the culvert. Thought the keeper must have seen it come out, so sent James Westell to try a deep at some gardens above, whilst we lowered the water in the tunnel, and there old London found it. We swam it about half-an-hour, and called off, having only two couples of hounds and two terriers with us. As this otter did not come down Calder for two or three days, I sent James Westell with a hound to try for it near Marsden and Royle, when to his great disgust he found that Jack Moore, who keeps a public house, and has a garden where we swam the otter, waited the day we left till six o'clock when the factory stopped, and when the bed of the river became nearly dry, he, with some hundred blackguards armed with sticks, stones, and pitchforks, murdered the poor otter, though he had promised us not

to disturb it. We were not aware that the river would be so reduced when the factory stopped, or I should have left the keeper to look after it till dark.

May 9th. Tried from Ribchester Bridge to below Red Scar. Had a poor trail from Jackson Banks where we thought we left a bitch otter. There had been a larger otter about within a day or two. Very cold, bad hunting.

May 15th. Breakfasted at Mitton Bridge. Sent the hounds to the Red Pump; tried up Hodder from the top of Bolton Roughs nearly to Knowlmere; not a symptom of an otter.

May 22nd. Met at Hornby. A large field out. Tried from the mill below Kirkby Lonsdale to where the Rathey joins the Lune. Blank.

May 23rd. Met at Hornby, and came on to a trail at the Nab, and hunted it down to the large deep below the Crook of Lune. The river was rather high. We made very little out of it; we could not keep it moving. Called off after a deal of pottering.

May 24th. Threw off at Caton at seven o'clock. Trailed the otter up to a strong willow bed above Hafton Wood (where the otters often cross), and had a splendid find, Cobbler being the first to proclaim the joyful tidings. They kept her going right merrily for about an hour and a half, when she stole down the long deep below. We let her sail away till she passed a rapid stream, below where she swam gallantly for three-quarters of an hour, without a chance of escape; at last old Pilot caught her by the head as she vented in the lower stream, and we had a glorious finish. Crowner, Cobbler, and Carver did wonders. It was a bitch otter about fourteen pounds' weight. Gave the keeper at Hornby and W. Hartley each a sovereign.

May 30th. Threw off at Hunters Holme above Gawthorpe and trailed one or two otters into a strong culvert or coal-pit level, a little above Royle, on the opposite side of the river. There was no chance of getting at them. Tried up to Carr Hall Mill. No hunt. Jack Moore promised to let the otters alone if I would send him a young one some

time. I told him if that very time we found an otter near there, I would behave well to him.

June 5th. Met at Sawley at half-past eight, having had the holes well stopped. Got on to a trail just below Bolton Hall, and hunted it very hot on both sides of the river near the Otter's Well; tried up nearly to Gisburn Mill, but not a touch. Tried quickly back, and Comely marked an otter where a great lump of wreck had been washed against a root. After some time the terriers marked him higher up in the bank above, where he had crept to the very farthest point, but Crab dislodged him in gallant style. I pulled at his tail and both came out locked together, and were some time before they were separated. We swam him beautifully for nearly an hour, when out he would come under a root, and Cobbler and Carver closed upon him, and he made a good fight. He weighed twenty-four pounds. T. and C. Trappes out.

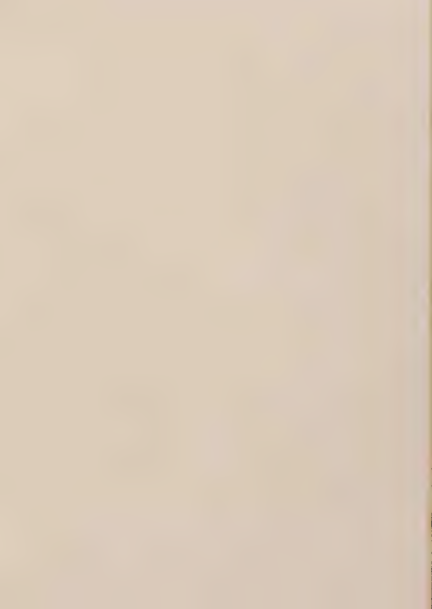
June 13th. Met at Bolton Bridge at eight o'clock. The river Wharfe being much swollen we could not hunt.

June 22nd. The otter drowned little Randy in Panefield Pit.

June 27th. Threw off at Mitton Bridge. Tried down to Ree Deep; no hunt. Crossed over by Hodder Place and tried up to Bolton Roughs; took the road by the Limekiln above Sandal Holme, and came to the Hodder again above Stakes; tried thence to the top of Lily Holme. Blank. Called at Radam Lawn, and lunched at the Red Pump. It was a dreadfully hot day. There had been a fine otter a little below the Higher Bridge two days before. We found afterwards it had gone up Calder. We did not try lower down Ribble, as the rinderpest was bad amongst the cattle near Ribchester. T. and C. Trappes, Captain Lowndes, etc., out.

July 24th. Tried with a couple of hounds from Bolton Bridge on the Wharfe to the top of Harwood Deep, without the trace of an otter, though old Holmes had sealed two otters three days before at Addingham Deep. Sent James Westell to Kilnsey with a couple of hounds to come down the river in the morning.

July 25th. Threw off at a little above Bolton Abbey. Had no





"CARVER," THE LAST OF THE PACK.

hunt till we came nearly opposite a strong drain about two miles below Burnsall. Had a fair hunt to above the village, and then a poor trail for about two miles, and a very good trail through the woods below Mr. Nowell's up to above Kilnsey, but could not find. Tried back to Burnsall, and walked home to Bolton Bridge as it was too late to have killed the otter if we found him below. The river was black and heavy owing to the water from the reservoir being let off daily.

July 26th. Ordered James Westell to try with a couple of hounds first thing in the morning whether the otter had passed the bridge. He reported that there was no hunt; consequently we threw off below the Strid, above which the hounds hit upon a splendid trail, which, after a while we perceived came down all the way to the bottom of the lower dam at Addingham. All was hunt at both dams, and we tried and better tried, but could not find. The day was beautiful and a very large field out.

August 22nd. Threw off below Moreton in the Calder. Had an excellent trail at the lower end of Calder, and through Mitton Wood. Thought we had found at a root above Dum Jordan, at the foot of Little Ribble, but after a deal of jumping and excitement the hounds and terriers ceased to mark. Tried up to Hyndburn, but to no purpose. Lunched with C. Trappes at Mitton, and returned home.

August 24th. As an otter had come down from Padiham the day before, we had all the drains in Calder stopped at night, and meant to throw off at the Stepping Stones above Whalley; but as there was no hunt there, we walked off to Mitton Bridge, where we threw off, and, finding no hunt at Hodder Foot, cut down below Hacking Hall, where there was a rattling trail through the wood and over the hill opposite Jumbles into Ribble. Had a good trail to below Showley Wood, and tried on to Stubbins Deep, but did not find. Walked home in the wet.

August 29th. Breakfasted at Mitton with T. Trappes. Trying down Great Ribble, we came upon a trail at the ford above Elston Hall, and found at the favourite root at Blizzar Rocks. As a small otter was soon seen to vent, we coupled up most of the hounds. Shortly

after, a larger otter took the land on the Samlesbury side of the river, popping out of one rabbit hole into another ; at length it found a tolerably strong earth, when we called off, not wishing to hurt it. It might be either the old bitch or a young dog otter by the size of it.

October 4th. Threw off at Moreton Stepping Stones, and had a most splendid trail (the best scenting day I ever saw) down Calder and through Mitton Wood, and back again over the Holme below ; then found it had doubled back to the drain near the Stepping Stones. C. Trappes out.

October 5th. Threw off again below Moreton, having stopped all the drains in the night ; had a trail all the way up to the turn of the river ; tried up to the Stone Quarry at Marsden Bridge. No hunt. Returned, and Cobbler found three cubs at a strong plane tree root. We worked away like bricks, expecting the otter which we had hunted up (which appeared to be a dog otter) to bolt every minute, when, after two hours' work, we found three cubs about six weeks old, which Crab had worried in the hold. We could find nothing of the old bitch or the otter we had hunted up. C. Trappes, a nephew of Mr. Fort and McDonald, etc., out.

October 11th. Met at Sawley Bridge, having ordered all the drains to be stopped. Had an excellent trail immediately, but met a keeper from Bolton Hall, who informed me that Mr. Wright would not let his keeper stop the holes during the night, as he was going off to Cambridge that morning, and wanted my card. Dreadfully disappointed, we hunted up, up to above Gisburn Park, when a salmon, dashing out from under a root where the hounds were hunting, they shouted "abroad." I tried up and down, but never a hound hunted the water or had an idea that there was an otter abroad. Then the terriers marked in a small drain below where the supposed otter was seen, which delayed us at least two hours. At last, finding out our mistake (for a large salmon went from under a sod, which I tried above) which led me to suspect, as it performed just like an otter. We returned back to Sawley, and had a capital trail to Waddow Deep, where we called off. McDonald, T. and C. Trappes and myself lunched at Stanley House. A rail broke as I was

getting over it, just below Grindleton, and I got a proper ducking in the Ribble, but was no worse for it.

October 17th. Threw off at Mitton Bridge at nine o'clock. A frosty morning with an east wind. Expected to go up Little Ribble, where James Westell had hunted an otter the day before, but Bob Westell, having sealed an otter fresh at Hodder Foot, tried down Ribble, and had a glorious trail to Titty Wheel, where we had a magnificent find at the higher roots above the large cob in the river. We swam him two hours and fifty minutes, and killed him at a strong root nearly opposite where the otters crossed through Mitton Wood into Calder.

November 2nd. Turned out the tame otter in the meadow, and killed it with the young hounds.

1867.

January 29th. Received a little bitch otter from Salvin. It was too young to turn out, so I sent it up to Jack Moore, to prevent him catching any otters below Carr Hall. He was pleased and made many promises of protecting the otters in his neighbourhood.

April 25th. Received a little bitch otter, about nine or ten pounds, from Salvin. Turned it out above Hyndburn Foot; it dived away well, and seemed likely to live.

June 11th. Carver marked an otter in the boundary drain, near Whalley; did not get it out, there was such an immense crowd at Whalley.

June 12th. Breakfasted and threw off at Mitton. Tried down to below Jackson Banks. Blank. Captain Trappes, Sir W. Fielden, Rev. Selby Lowndes, etc., out.

June 18th. Breakfasted and threw off at Mitton. Had a trial at the lower end of the Hodder. Hunted down to Ree Deep, where the trail was brilliant. Tried down to Sale Wheel; returned, and found (old Pilot) in a drain in a meadow on the Shawrigg Farm. She seemed close to the mouth of the drain, as hounds and terriers could all mark

her. After making a couple of holes, little Vick bolted a fine bitch otter, which we swam for three hours and three-quarters, and killed beneath the farmhouse above the Troughs. Sir W. Fielden, Captain Trappes, Captain Robinson, and several people from Harwood and Blackburn out. Weight, sixteen pounds and a half.

June 26th. Met at Sawley. As we could not get the holes stopped at Bolton, tried down, and trailed an otter from a little above Kemp Stone Hole, to a drain near Horrocksford, where, after a good deal of digging, we bolted a fine bitch otter. She had not swum above a quarter of an hour before she got in again at the mouth of the drain, which had not been well stopped. Got her out again after some time, and before she had quite reached the river, some fellows uncoupled several of the hounds which were fastened to some railings, and the otter was all but worried before they could be got off. She swam about ten minutes, and they killed her. Sir W. Fielden, Rev. Selby Lowndes, Captain Trappes, etc., out. About such another otter as was killed at the Troughs the night before.

July 30th. Breakfasted at Mitton. Tried up to Lily Holme. Blank.

August 2nd. Tried down Calder. Had a good hunt from Mitton Wood to the Lower Bridge on Hodder. After a good deal of trying, found a Hill Hole in Calder, too late to work it.

August 8th. Met at Caton. Had a good trail about the willow beds above the Crook of Lune, where we thought there was an otter, but as we could do no good with it, tried down to the deep below Mr. Sharpe's, where an otter had got into the drain which goes under the railway, about the Weir. Dislodged a fine otter after a little digging, and swam it about five hours, when we called off. The water was strong, and it was very windy. All the world was out, from Liverpool, Bradford, Lancaster, etc.

August 9th. Met again at Caton. Hunted to a little above the willow beds, but made no labour to find, as the river was much swollen.

August 22nd. Had a splendid trail from the Stepping Stones above Gawthorpe to Marsden Bridge, but could not find. Colegrave out.

September 10th. Sent the hounds to Lancaster by rail; returned the same day, the Lune being too high.

September 14th. Met at Hunters Holme, in Calder. Had an excellent double trail of two otters into the coalpit level at Royle, which had been stopped, but had been opened again by some people from Burnley, unknown to us; so we were done.

September 16th. Threw off at Hunters Holme. Had a fair trail to Jack Moore's. Tried back to Altham, but did not find.

September 26th. Sent James Westell to try to find an otter above Padiham, the fast places being stopped. He had a capital trail up to the top of the wood below Jack Moore's, where he called off, as the otter had been seen and pelted below the factory. He immediately sent a lad to Clayton to let me know. Comely had marked it in a drain below the factory. We hustled off with the hounds, got out the otter quickly with the terriers (Venture) and waited till the factory started again at half-past one, that the water might be higher and the otter show more sport. Swam him three hours and three-quarters, and killed him at last just below the large culvert under the delf which he went to, but James Westell was there before him, to his great astonishment. He took through some docks to a hollow root just at hand, but clear of the water, where they soon ran into him. He was a smart dog otter, about twenty pounds weight. By far the best swim of the season for hounds, as there were plenty of roots, and no viewing him. A large field out from Padiham and the neighbourhood.

October 8th. Threw off at Churchtown on the Wyre at half-past nine, taking the hounds by rail to Brock Station. Had a good trail to above Garstang. Tried back to Churchtown and called off. An awfully rough day.

October 15th. Threw off at Churchtown. Tried to below St. Michaels, and then up above Garstang. No hunt. C. Trappes out.

1868.

May 12th. Threw off at Caton on the Lune, as eight o'clock. Found a fine dog otter at a root a little below Halton Hall. The hounds and terriers had a good hunt with him before he went abroad. Swam him about three hours, when he stole up into an old mill, where Pilot, Cobbler and Carver found him, and he was seen several times about the cowshed. It was three-quarters of an hour before I was informed of what was going on. Never could stir him afterwards. Colonel King and a large field out.

May 13th. Hunted the old otter up to above Hornby, both in the Wenning and in the Lune. Dug a few holes in the drain opposite Hornby Castle, in the Wenning, but could make nothing of it. Tried the old drain above Hornby Bridge, on the Lune. "No go."

May 14th. Bob Westell tried up to Greta, and had a good hunt of a fine otter to some willows about Harkholme, and there was a good trail in the Wenning. Threw off at the bridge, and had not gone one hundred yards above the drain opposite the Castle, when the hounds hit him right over the middle of the field to the top end of the drain, and several of them with the terriers stopped to mark him about half-way across in a by-drain full of water. After trying for hours we gave it up. The otter was seen a little below the drain mouth at nine o'clock, and, leaving the water, cut up under the Castle. They immediately made up all the drains opposite. The farmer of the field thought it looked like a bitch otter, sixteen or seventeen pounds' weight.

May 15th. Came with Charles Trappes from Lancaster by five o'clock in the morning. Threw off at Wenning Bridge immediately after breakfast. All was hunt on both sides of the river to within about three hundred yards of Wenning Foot, where the hounds hit him across the large Holme up into Lune, and soon after crossed the field into the old wet drain on the opposite side of the river. Hence we had the most splendid double trail of a fine dog otter to the willows above Harkholme, to which Bob Westell had hunted him the day before. Coming back to Hornby Bridge I left James Westell with Comely and the terriers to try the drain below the bridge, whilst I took part of the hounds to make good the Wenning.

We had the most glorious hunt of a bitch otter up to Wennington Mill, where I sealed the otter very fresh down, having several times sealed it up before. Not being able to make anything of it higher up, we returned to Hornby, and exchanging some of the hounds, tried down to the willow beds, where the otter generally crosses over land by Hafton Wood. Though it was afternoon, the hounds hunted magnificently over the large Holme opposite, and below Nab Farm. Finding no hunt below we tried back up the river, and Comely marked hard where an otter had apparently laid a day before. As it had got too late to try again the drain out of which they should have ladled the water, we gave it up. We returned home, hounds and all, that night.

May 27th. Threw off at Hothersall Hall at eight o'clock. Had a good trail from Stubbins Deep to Blizzar Rocks. Found a fine otter, and swam it several hours, but entirely lost it. I think it went down below Red Scar, without calling at the side.

June 9th. Breakfasted at Ribchester Bridge at half-past six with Captain Trappes. Tried down to Samlesbury Hall without a touch. Had a hot trail from the deep below the house to the stream below Red Scar. Tried down to below the bridge; then returned, and old Pilot hit a trail up Tom Brook. There appeared to be a couple of otters; could make nothing of them, so returned home.

June 15th. Breakfasted at Ribchester Bridge with T. Trappes at seven o'clock. Tried down Ribble to the New Bridge at Samlesbury below Red Scar. Never a hound spoke to a trail, though we sealed an otter apparently fresh at Jackson Banks, and again below Red Scar. Walked back to Ribchester Bridge, and tried up to Hacking Boat. Blank.

July 1st. Met at Sawley. Threw off at half-past six, and tried to Long Preston Deeps. Had a trail for about a mile below Cow Bridge, up to the impregnable drain. Walked back to Gisburn, and took a drag to Sawley.

July 6th. Met at Caton at six o'clock. Found a bitch otter and cub in the drain running under the railway. Let the old bitch out,

and walled the young one in. After swimming the bitch a couple of hours in the deep above, lost her entirely. Tried three or four hours in vain. Caught the young one and sent it home. T. and C. Trappes and a large field out.

July 7th. Threw off at Caton at five o'clock. Never had a hunt to within a couple of miles of Grimes Hill, where we had an excellent trail of a fine otter, but could not find.

July 8th. Met at Casterton at seven o'clock, going for lunch and breakfast to Hornby Castle, the otter had been stopped in. Tried to Grimes Hill and down to Kirkby Lonsdale. T. and C. Trappes returned back here. The drain was a little below where the hunt began the day before, and was stopped at eight o'clock instead of earlier. Lost the young otter out of the otter place about a week after. James Westell searched for it till ten o'clock on a hot sunny morning. I hunted to the old mill but could make nothing more of it.

August 19th. Met at Caton on the Lune at six o'clock. Tried down to Halton. No trail. Received a message from Bob Westell that there was a trail at Harkholmes. Sent the hounds at once to Hornby by rail and hunted from Harkholmes up to Tunstall drain. Thought the otter had gone down from there. Hunted it into Jackson's drain near Hornby. Left the men to open the drain whilst I tried down Lune. Found an otter at the deep below the Nab, and killed it after the toughest swim I ever beheld lasting over five hours. It was a young dog otter, about fourteen pounds' weight. Mr. Gillow and his three sons, Captain Urquhart, and many gentlemen of the neighbourhood, out.

August 20th. Left Lancaster with Tom Trappes at five o'clock. Breakfasted at Walton's cottage at Hornby; threw off at seven o'clock. Had a splendid trail of a fine dog otter up to an old level opposite Mr. Saunder's house; dug five hours but to no purpose.

September 19th. Threw off at Hacking Boat. Found an otter at a strong root, about three hundred yards away from the river. Swam it four hours and called off. Got home at eight o'clock; had no conveyance.

September 24th. Breakfasted at Ribchester Bridge at seven o'clock with T. and C. Trappes. Tried down Ribble, got on to a good trail at Stubbins Deep. Found a young dog otter at some willows at the deep below Jackson Banks, and killed him after a swim of thirty-five minutes. Tried down to Blizzar Rocks without a touch. Came back, and Vengeance marked an old bitch otter at Jackson Banks. She had stolen up whilst we were swimming the young one. Bowler and Finder hit her right away down to the Boat Hole where a Scotch terrier tallyhoed her venting close before them. The bulk of the hounds were busy marking at another root at Jackson Banks, where I think there was another young otter; however, we followed the bitch otter, and recovered her beautifully in a dry root, under a farm house below the Boat Hole, where we had a most exciting swim, taking care she did not regain the deep above, and had a glorious finish amongst some bushes below the Farm-house, after a swim of one hour and forty minutes from finding her at Jackson Banks.

1869.

April 27th. Met at Catterall. Tried up Wyre about half a mile, then down to St. Michaels. Had a trail of an otter just above Brock Foot, and down to the strong roots above Wild Boar Bridge (now washed away) but the tide coming up, washed feet and scent all away. Tried up Brock, had here and there a trail, and could seal a fine otter going up, but could make nothing of it. C. Trappes out. Dined together at Preston. A hot, sunny day.

May 26th. Breakfasted at Sawley. Took two couple of hounds in a conveyance to Long Preston, the others following after. Hunted two or three otters, which had been down at Bolton a few days before, into a strong tunnel there.

June 8th. Threw off at Caton on the Lune. T. and C. Trappes, several gentlemen from Liverpool, Yates, etc., out. Hit off at trail at the drain above the willow beds at Aughton Flats. Had a double trail to Wenning Foot. Returned, and found a fine dog otter in the drain, where the hunt commenced. After marking him, old Crab got

fast in the drain. We dug him out, and found the otter lay between two holes we had opened. We put in Crab, and, as the old gentleman was coming out, Billy Walton set his two terriers right on to it, and Venture joining them, there was a tremendous encounter at the drain end, little Crab having hold of the tip end of the otter's tail. It was some time before he could extricate himself. He made a capital swim of two hours, Joseph Sympson tailing him a little above the willow beds. He bit the hounds awfully as there were only a few up at the time. Finder behaved most gallantly, and Viper, who got his first lesson, did well. Three couple of hounds were left at Hornby. The otter weighed twenty-two pounds.

June 9th. Threw off at Hornby Bridge. Had a trail above the Holme, but no further. Having tried down the Nab Farm, returned, and dug at both the usual drains above Hornby Bridge, but without success. Got some refreshments at Mr. Wright's Farm, and tried down to the railway bridge below Caton, but did not find. A large field out.

June 10th. Threw off at Caton at seven o'clock. Hunted a couple of otters at the deep below the Railway, sealing them down to the top deep. Tried to below Halton, but did not find. Tried up to Harkholme, above Hornby, but had no luck.

July 22nd. Met at Hothersall Hall at five o'clock. Threw off at Sunderland Hall, and had a good double trail down to Jackson Banks. After a good deal of trying up and down, Tuner marked the otter in Stubbins Deep at seven o'clock. It made a very good swim till two o'clock, when, just as we expected to kill, it left the river, and stole into a strong hold in the wood, where we might have dug for hours to no purpose. T. Trappes, etc., out. It seemed to be a fine bitch otter.

August 24th. Met at Caton, near Lancaster, at seven o'clock. Threw off at the top of Hafton Wood, and tried down. Had no hunt till we reached Halton Hall, whence we had a jolly trail to the Weir below the Aqueduct. Returned, and found at the old oak tree root near the stile. Swam the otter four hours gloriously, fully expecting to kill him, though there was a great wind upon the water, and the hounds

had all to do. Bowler, Vulcan, and Carver greatly distinguished themselves, so did Duncan. There was a very large field out; C. Trappes Oswald Walmesley, Gillow of Leighton and son, the two Yates, Colonel Whittle, and a large party of ladies, T. Brookes, some keen sportsmen from Liverpool, besides many others from Bradford, Lancaster and the surrounding neighbourhood. At length we entirely lost it, fancying that it had got under some calling, near the mouth of the drain. All were well pleased, and all acknowledged that the hounds well deserved their otter, which was not a very large one.

August 25th. Met again at Caton at seven o'clock. Hunted our yesterday's otter across the field at the islands, but, finding that it had turned back, tried upwards coming upon a blazing trail across the Holme, out of Wenning into Lune, and hunted it up into the wood close to Gressingham Bridge, where all was trail together. Cobbler and Crouner found an otter in the wood, bringing it down to Lune in such a hurry that it showed a chain of bubbles for thirty yards after it. It soon took into the wood again, where it ran fully half-an-hour before it again bolted into Lune, where it could not get out of the way of the hounds, being blown and seen wherever it went, it was so slight and light. It took again to the covert, and the terriers and Duncan seized it in the open gutter, it was all up with it. It lasted just forty-five minutes, and was a smart young dog otter. After breathing awhile, we tried for a fresh otter, which we had seen venting at the lower end of the deep, whilst we were swimming the other near the bridge. The hounds soon hit her up into the covert, and we had another glorious "chivey" through the wood for a full half-hour before she would go abroad. Twice she came to Lune and twice she returned to land, making most exciting sport; the third time she went abroad I got the people to keep back on both sides, and she stole away nicely to the willows below, where she kept us going merrily for a full hour. At last she made up the brook for the old culvert, but the hounds were so close upon her that she cut through the hedge to gain the lower deep; but the terriers overtook her ladyship, and the hounds coming up, ran into her. A lively bitch otter about fifteen pounds' weight. Gave it to the Hornby Castle people to stuff. Nearly the same field as yesterday's out.

August 26th. Met at Hornby at seven o'clock. Bob Westell having met with a trail at Tunstall drain, we marched straight there and threw off in the Lune about a mile above. There was a magnificent trail to within a mile of Kirkby Lonsdale Bridge. Tried back very carefully; had some beautiful hunting below where we first started, but could not find. Had we thrown off at six o'clock instead of a quarter to nine, we should most likely have killed an otter between twelve and one o'clock. It was really too hot for man or hound to work. The thermometer was at 101 degrees. The Yates, C. Trappes, Oswald Walmesley and myself returned by train to Lancaster, and got home, hounds and all, the same night.

1870.

April 28th. Met at Churchtown on the Wyre at half-past nine. Tried up to Garstang Mill with a very poor trail. Tried back, and down to Wild Boar Bridge, below St. Michaels, with an equally miserable hunt, though the otter (rather a fine one) sealed both ways as far as the Brock junction. Returned to Churchtown, and found in some calling. After digging here, and digging there for two hours or more, for it condescended to move occasionally, we obliged to give in. All the hounds behaved well.

May 10th. Threw off below Hothersall Hall at nine o'clock. Had an excellent trail from Jackson Banks to Elston Boat Hole, where Tuner found a bitch otter. After a little pothering the hounds went abroad with her, and shortly after, Tuner hit her beautifully above the rocks in the middle of the river, and she dashed boldly up nearly to the deep above. After swimming about a quarter of an hour, Vulcan had a tussle with her under a small root, and immediately after she stole out upon the land, where the hounds ran into her, to our great disappointment. Meanwhile Joseph Sympson saw a small otter vent opposite the root where we first found the old bitch. We got the hounds off, and tried as far as Red Scar, but to no purpose. Whether the young ones would be able to live we could not tell. An old otter about fifteen pounds, full of milk.

May 15th (Sunday evening). Mr. Hopwood's son saw four otters near Sunderland Hall (three young ones better than half grown, and an old one). They were down in the Barn's Hole by the side of the Ribble, and they all went up towards the Mill stream. So he wrote to say.

June 1st. Met at Caton. A large field out; the river quite up.

June 2nd. Met at Casterton, above Kirkby Lonsdale, at seven o'clock. Trailed an otter heel way nearly to Grimes Hill. Returned, and found at Brentwood, opposite the mouth of the Greta. Swam it three hours, when it stole down, and all chance of a kill was gone. The river was rather high.

June 3rd. Met at Hornby at a quarter past seven, and came upon a red-hot trail in the Wenning, where it seemed like a find in some calling near the drain opposite the Castle, but it had gone forward after trying hard to get into the drain, which had been well stopped. Tuner found in the large wood, where we ran her three-quarters of an hour and killed her. She never took to the river. It was a fine bitch otter eighteen and a quarter pounds' weight. I felt almost certain I saw another small otter in the covert, but we could not recover her. I still think there was another. We tried down Wenning and up to the Lune, and found that it was the same otter we swam the day before as it had come down Lune.

August 10th. Met at Hothersall Hall at eight o'clock, and found at Jackson Banks. After swimming a short time the otter got under a strong plane tree root, and we could make no more of it. Two or three small otters sealed fresh all about. Tried down Ribble, when Carver and Tuner marked strongly at a shoot between Alston Hall Wood and the Boat Hole. After digging awhile we gave it up. T. Trappes, Harrison and son, etc., out.

August 25th. Met at Hothersall Hall, and tried down to the Wood Bridge. Had a trail as far as Red Scar. Left them at Jackson Banks. Went to the railway about a mile above Caton, dug several times, but could make nothing of it. Colonel King, Morgan, the Yates, C. Trappes, etc., out.

September 23rd. Met at Mitton Bridge. Hunted up to the Limekilns, dug several holes without dislodging the otter. It was bolted out of the higher part of the drain next day.

September 28th. Met at Mitton Bridge. Tried down Ribble to below Ree Deep, and then took up to Cock Bridge. No sport.

1871.

May 17th. Met at Mitton Bridge at half-past eight. Tried down Ribble (a bitter cold day), seemed to find (Carver) in the heap of stones close to Hothersall Hall, could make nothing of it. Tried on to Jackson Banks, where Carver marked repeatedly, but we could not get him abroad. Walked back to Whalley. Some people out from Blackburn.

May 24th. Sent Joseph Sympson to try the hounds purchased from Mr. Stewart, of Newport, Monmouthshire (South Wales). He took Carver with them to Ribchester Bridge on the 23rd, and, starting early on the 24th, had an excellent double trail from the village of Ribchester to below Sunderland Hall. The new hounds hunted well, especially Careless.

June 1st. Met at Ribchester Bridge at eight o'clock; pushed on to Jackson Banks. Had rather a cold trail to above the Boat Hole at Elston. No hunt at Blizzar Rocks. Returned to Stubbins Deep, where Carver hunted up to an old shoot in the wood, where the otter most likely was, but he was not to be moved. Had a good trail to Showley Wood, where the otter sealed down, and the hunt ceased. Some gentlemen from Blackburn out. A bad scenting day.

June 10th. Met at Mitton Bridge at eight o'clock. Tried up Ribble, and came upon a trail at Waddow. Dug several hours at Horrocksford drains, without success.

June 19th. Breakfasted at Stanley House, having had the Horrocksford drains stopped. Threw off at Stone Hole, and had a cold trail down to Ribchester Bridge; the otter having been stopped in, there was no

fresh trail. The otter worked itself out the next night, and got into a rat-trap at Horrocksford, which fortunately was not strong enough to hold it.

July 11th. Had Vulcan destroyed, as he would take nothing but water for two days, and seemed in a very queer way. His mouth was very red, and he appeared to be fast in his throat. We gave him some castor oil, which appeared to do him good, as he was lively for some time, but he grew worse towards evening, and rather violent; he had not been near any of the other hounds for some time.

August 12th. Duncan did not feed, and became very savage in the kennel, and bit two or more of the other hounds. Put him up by himself that night. Could not get any medicine into him next day, nor ever afterwards. He was sometimes friendly, and immediately afterwards very fierce. He seemed to grow worse every day. He was startling, and bit at anything. He appeared decidedly mad, so I shot him on Wednesday the 16th, and together with him, all the other hounds and terriers that were in the kennel with him on the Saturday previous, when he became so vicious. They were all buried in the Clough behind the farmyard.

The only hounds left were: Carver, Bowler, and Mountain.

The terriers left were: Jack, Crab, Rock, Mustard, Ranger, and Pepper.

[This is the last entry in Mr. Lomax's diary.]



APPENDIX.



THE HUNT IN THE LUNE, 1862.

It was the last week in August, I never shall forget,
At the bridge above Hornby our jolly pack met.
Two otters sealed up, and a livelier trail
Ne'er trilled up a mountain or gladdened a vale.

CHORUS.

You may talk while you will, but I'll stick to my tune,
That there ne'er was a hunt like that hunt in the Lune.

Not a sod, not a stone, but upon it they'd been,
Oh, list o'er the gravel bed, list o'er the green.
We scarcely could tell that our feet touched the ground ;
Such glee, such enchantment, encircled us round. ~

CHORUS.

You may talk while you will, but I'll stick to my tune,
That there ne'er was a hunt like that hunt in the Lune.

When Arkholme was reached, we perceived by the pack
That the rogues from that point had turned cunningly back ;
Little Venture then merrily creeps up a drain,
And out bolts her ladyship over the plain.

CHORUS.

You may talk while you will, but I'll stick to my tune,
That there ne'er was a hunt like that hunt in the Lune.

The bank here was rooty, the current was strong ;
For fully three hours she scudded along,
We'd lost her awhile, and when trying up higher
The old boy himself was tallyho'd by the Squire.

CHORUS.

You may talk while you will, but I'll stick to my tune,
That there ne'er was a hunt like that hunt in the Lune.

Now this was no joke in such difficult ground,
For one got a rest when the other was found ;
But as luck would have it, at last the old elf
Left his darling politely, to fend for herself.

CHORUS.

You may talk while you will, but I'll stick to my tune,
That there ne'er was a hunt like that hunt in the Lune.

To a snug hollow bank, half a mile down, he goes,
Where bravely he stands the assault of his foes ;
Then right in the middle he comes up to vent ;
With screams of excitement the mid-air is rent.

CHORUS.

You may talk while you will, but I'll stick to my tune,
That there ne'er was a hunt like that hunt in the Lune.

For the bridge next he darts, where we stood in a row ;
He thought to have passed us, but found it " no go " ;
Direct thro' the bushes he speeds away back,
And rashly, but gallantly, fights through the pack.

CHORUS.

You may talk while you will, but I'll stick to my tune,
That there ne'er was a hunt like that hunt in the Lune.

Some time things looked gloomy, and many maintained
That the long deep below us he could not have gained ;
But Rockwood, good hound, hits him down in full cry,
And the huntsman exclaims : " He's gone by, he's gone by."

CHORUS.

You may talk while you will, but I'll stick to my tune,
That there ne'er was a hunt like that hunt in the Lune.

From willow to willow he slyly creeps now,
Then takes to the wood. What a crash ! what a row !
For full twenty minutes he gives them a burst ;
Into Lune, just before them, he tumbles head first.

CHORUS.

You may talk while you will, but I'll stick to my tune,
That there ne'er was a hunt like that hunt in the Lune.

Awhile now he puzzles both huntsman and hound,
Till by London and Leader far below he is found ;
See there ! up at the open he vents and he gapes,
Nine couples close on him, yet still he escapes.

CHORUS.

You may talk while you will, but I'll stick to my tune,
That there ne'er was a hunt like that hunt in the Lune.

Once more through the covert, so rugged and thick,
He doubles, he dodges, he tries every trick ;
They view him, they have him, they stick to him fast ;
He struggles for life, and fights to the last.

CHORUS.

You may talk while you will, but I'll stick to my tune,
That there ne'er was a hunt like that hunt in the Lune.

We shook the old bridge with our cheers of delight ;
 We scarce had done cheering when, lo ! it was night.
 A more gallant otter was ne'er sealed upon sand,
 Ne'er was a swim more merry, nor finish more grand.

CHORUS.

You may talk while you will, but I'll stick to my tune,
 That there ne'er was a hunt like that hunt in the Lune.

At eight in the morning we threw off the hounds,
 At eight in the evening the woo-hoop resounds ;
 Now, I'll give you a toast, since I've finished my tune :
 " The hounds and Squire Lomax, that hunted the Lune ! "

CHORUS.

You may talk while you will, but I'll stick to my tune,
 That there ne'er was a hunt like that hunt in the Lune.

NUDGER.

Nudger, that famous dog for sport—
 None with him can compare ;
 For unto him all games' alike,
 The Fox, the Mart, the Hare.

No Harrier 'ere was seen before
 Like him a dray to run ,
 Witness the matches and the cups
 And prizes he has won,

So here's a health to Saddleworth Hunt,
 And all ye sportsmen mark,
 The motto of its arms shall be
 " Hark ! Ah ! to Nudger. Hark ! "

THE HUNT IN THE HODDER.

Old Squire Lomax's dags I'd oft heerd um tell,
I bethout me one morning I'd see um mysell,
So I donn'd me, and reet off for Mytton dud trig,
Un I landed me just as they loased under th' Brig.

CHORUS.

Cobbler wur theer, Carver wur theer,
Random and Rover, oud Pilot and aw.

Dean Ribble theer worrunt a smite of a touch,
Tho' th' dogs into every hoile they did thrutch ;
But no soyner they turned up beside Hodder Foot,
When they fairly went crazy-like under a root.

CHORUS.

Cobbler wur theer, Carver wur theer,
Random and Rover, oud Pilot and aw.

Next upo' sum stoans, heaw they aw dud bud roor,
There nevur wor heerd sich norration afoor !
O'er annenst an owd brig, they med th' leaves for to fo
Yo'a thout they'd a fotten deawn th' arches un aw.

CHORUS.

Cobbler wur theer, Carver wur theer, *
Random and Rover, oud Pilot and aw.

Up and deawn Moyser Wood, heaw they twisted un twined ;
They'd a tarried while nea, if they'd had their own mind.

"Dus ta year out," cries Jim, us they rove up a brea—
 "Houd ti tung, mon," says I, "I'se i' Heaven just nea."

CHORUS.

Cobbler wur theer, Carver wur theer,
 Random and Rover, oud Pilot and aw.

We then coom to a spot they coed Titty Wheel Nook,
 When th' dogs reand a plane-tree scrats aw ov a rook ;
 "He's yonder !" sheats Squire, un we aw clustered throo—
 Heaw legs, un heaw arms, un heaw water they flew !

CHORUS.

Cobbler wur theer, Carver wur theer,
 Random and Rover, oud Pilot and aw.

Hark ! Crab's agate feighting him, hard as he con ;
 Be sharp un seize howd ov a dog, every mon.
 We had nobbut just cleeked um, un roven um back,
 When th' grey-headed maister croap cawt in a crack.

CHORUS.

Cobbler wur theer, Carver wur theer,
 Random and Rover, oud Pilot and aw.

Away reet up Hodder he went wi' a lush,
 Dogs belling like thunner cloise up to his brush,
 When the Captain skrikes cawt "Vent, a vent up aboon,
 I know'n't iv I stood o' my head or my shoon."

CHORUS.

Cobbler wur theer, Carver wur theer,
 Random and Rover, oud Pilot and aw.

We'd lost him a bit, he'd slipt dean like a treat,
 But foasley owd Dashwood he soon fun him eawt
 Up and dean a nice deep, then he wapped to un fro
 But dogs allus at him soon med him to blow.

CHORUS.

Cobbler wur theer, Carver wur theer,
 Random and Rover, oud Pilot and aw.

Next under a root he croap eawt for to rest,
 But Venture soon followed him into his neast ;
 He geet a good kussing, when eawt they boath cums,
 Eh, my ! wod a din did make owd Jim o' Tuns.

CHORUS.

Cobbler wur theer, Carver wur theer,
 Random and Rover, oud Pilot and aw.

Wi' lunging un plunging to th' Brig then he geet,
 Weer slyly he managed to keep eawt o' seet ;
 'Till Rockwood he wakkened him squatted so snug,
 Un Leader i' th' stream wi' him had a steat tug.

CHORUS.

Cobbler wur theer, Carver wur theer,
 Random and Rover, oud Pilot and aw.

Next reet throo some bushes he cluntered ram sam,
 Boughs craking, men sheating, eh, worrund it gam—
 He's nobbut afore um, 'beat length of his tail,
 When aw ov a cluster dean Hodder they sail.

CHORUS

Cobbler wur theer, Carver wur theer,
 Random and Rover, oud Pilot and aw.

We swum him to Winckley, un theer he dud hoyle,
Bud a pick un a spade soon his harbour dud spoil ;
Then he fought into Ribble, ay, reet throo the pack,
Thro' foar on um once had him dean of his back.

CHORUS.

Cobbler wur theer, Carver wur theer,
Random and Rover, oud Pilot and aw.

They'd haggled him ill i' thad last bloody beawt,
After gaping awhile to a root, he croap eawt,
When Bowler reight sharply seized howd ov his heeod,
Un tother aw roave at him while he wor deeed

CHORUS.

Cobbler wur theer, Carver wur theer,
Random and Rover, oud Pilot and aw.

This otter whoas weight wor just twenty four peands,
Two hears, forty minits wor hunted by th' heands ;
Heer's luck to all th' pack, when they meeten next year,
May th' Captain, un me, un aw us be theer.

CHORUS.

May Cobbler be theer, may Carver be theer,
Random and Rover, oud Pilot and aw.



HUNTS OF NOTE.

| | | | | | |
|-------------------|----|----|----|----|--------------------|
| 1829.—October 2nd | .. | .. | .. | .. | Hodder. |
| 1830.—March 27th | .. | .. | .. | .. | Little Ribble. |
| April 12th | .. | .. | .. | .. | Yarrow. |
| April 26th | .. | .. | .. | .. | Lune. |
| May 1st. | .. | .. | .. | .. | Great Ribble. |
| July 30th | .. | .. | .. | .. | Great Ribble. |
| September 30th | .. | .. | .. | .. | Hodder. |
| 1831.—April 5th | .. | .. | .. | .. | Great Ribble. |
| April 21st | .. | .. | .. | .. | Wharfe. |
| April 26th | .. | .. | .. | .. | Lune. |
| May 26th | .. | .. | .. | .. | Great Ribble. |
| September 16th | .. | .. | .. | .. | Hodder. |
| 1832.—May 10th | .. | .. | .. | .. | Nidd. |
| July 6th | .. | .. | .. | .. | Ribble. |
| August 2nd | .. | .. | .. | .. | Wharfe. |
| August 21st | .. | .. | .. | .. | Nith. |
| September 12th | .. | .. | .. | .. | Nith. |
| 1833.—April 23rd | .. | .. | .. | .. | Sow. |
| April 25th | .. | .. | .. | .. | Avon (30 pounder). |
| August 6th | .. | .. | .. | .. | Lune. |
| September 11th | .. | .. | .. | .. | Great Ribble. |
| 1834.—May 31st | .. | .. | .. | .. | Ribble. |
| August 4th | .. | .. | .. | .. | Nith. |
| August 16th | .. | .. | .. | .. | Annan. |
| 1835.—April 24th | .. | .. | .. | .. | Hodder and Ribble. |
| June 9th | .. | .. | .. | .. | Tees and Greta. |
| June 30th | .. | .. | .. | .. | Ribble. |

| | | | | | |
|------------------|----|----|----|----|--------------------|
| 1835.—July 26th | .. | .. | .. | .. | Lune. |
| 1836.—May 9th | .. | .. | .. | .. | Dee. |
| May 11th | .. | .. | .. | .. | Dee. |
| May 26th | .. | .. | .. | .. | Ribble. |
| 1837.—June 9th | .. | .. | .. | .. | Dee. |
| August 26th | .. | .. | .. | .. | Lune. |
| 1838.—April 23rd | .. | .. | .. | .. | Ribble. |
| May 30th | .. | .. | .. | .. | Clwyd. |
| 1839.—April 17th | .. | .. | .. | .. | Wyre. |
| May 15th | .. | .. | .. | .. | Yarrow. |
| June 19th | .. | .. | .. | .. | Dee. |
| 1840.—March 20th | .. | .. | .. | .. | Ribble. |
| April 23rd | .. | .. | .. | .. | Aire. |
| May 22nd | .. | .. | .. | .. | Wharfe. |
| June 30th | .. | .. | .. | .. | Ribble. |
| August 6th | .. | .. | .. | .. | Lune. |
| September 2nd | .. | .. | .. | .. | Ribble. |
| October 14th | .. | .. | .. | .. | Wyre. |
| 1841.—March 25th | .. | .. | .. | .. | Yarrow. |
| April 19th | .. | .. | .. | .. | Wharfe. |
| May 11th | .. | .. | .. | .. | Swale. |
| May 26th | .. | .. | .. | .. | Wyre. |
| June 9th | .. | .. | .. | .. | Hodder and Ribble. |
| June 15th | .. | .. | .. | .. | Lune. |
| June 16th | .. | .. | .. | .. | Lune. |
| July 29th | .. | .. | .. | .. | Minnow. |
| July 31st | .. | .. | .. | .. | Minnow. |
| August 9th | .. | .. | .. | .. | Usk. |

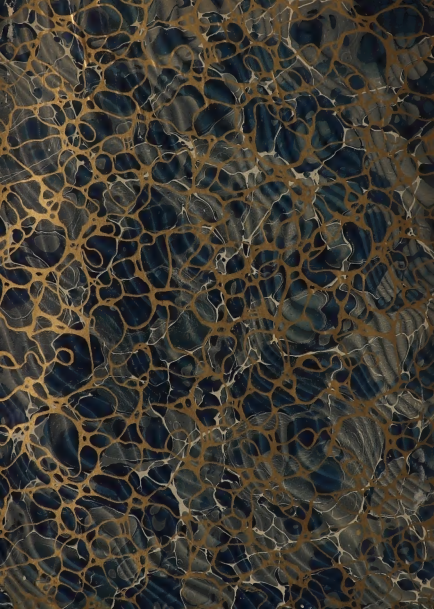
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|-------------------|----|----|----|----|----------------------|
| 1842.—April 26th | .. | .. | .. | .. | Wharfe. |
| May 7th. | .. | .. | .. | .. | Ure. |
| May 10th | .. | .. | .. | .. | Ure. |
| June 18th | .. | .. | .. | .. | Dee. |
| June 21st | .. | .. | .. | .. | Dee. |
| July 28th | .. | .. | .. | .. | Lune. |
| 1843.—May 12th | .. | .. | .. | .. | Swale. |
| June 20th | .. | .. | .. | .. | Lune. |
| September 28th | .. | .. | .. | .. | Ribble. |
| 1844.—April 26th | .. | .. | .. | .. | Wyre. |
| May 13th and 14th | .. | .. | .. | .. | Nidd. |
| May 23rd | .. | .. | .. | .. | Little Ribble. |
| June 20th | .. | .. | .. | .. | Dee. |
| August 29th | .. | .. | .. | .. | Ribble. |
| September 11th | .. | .. | .. | .. | Little Ribble. |
| September 26th | .. | .. | .. | .. | Little Ribble. |
| 1845.—June 17th | .. | .. | .. | .. | Little Ribble. |
| August 29th | .. | .. | .. | .. | Calder. |
| July 21st | .. | .. | .. | .. | Calder. |
| 1846.—April 25th | .. | .. | .. | .. | Little Ribble. |
| June .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | Lune. |
| July 29th | .. | .. | .. | .. | Wharfe. |
| August 27th | .. | .. | .. | .. | Hodder. |
| September 16th | .. | .. | .. | .. | Little Ribble. |
| September 30th | .. | .. | .. | .. | Hodder. |
| 1854.—June 6th | .. | .. | .. | .. | Ribble (Stonyhurst). |
| September 11th | .. | .. | .. | .. | Elwy (Father Weld). |
| 1857.—May 19th | .. | .. | .. | .. | Lune. |
| June 16th | .. | .. | .. | .. | Ribble (Stonyhurst). |

| | | | | | |
|------------------|----|----|----|----|----------------|
| 1858.—March 23rd | .. | .. | .. | .. | Calder. |
| April 20th | .. | .. | .. | .. | Hodder. |
| April 28th | .. | .. | .. | .. | Little Ribble. |
| July 11th | .. | .. | .. | .. | Lune. |
| August 27th | .. | .. | .. | .. | Ribble. |
| 1859.—May 10th | .. | .. | .. | .. | Ribble. |
| May 18th | .. | .. | .. | .. | Elwy. |
| May 19th | .. | .. | .. | .. | Clwyd. |
| May 22nd | .. | .. | .. | .. | Elwy. |
| May 23rd | .. | .. | .. | .. | Denbigh Brook. |
| May 24th | .. | .. | .. | .. | Clwyd. |
| June 21st | .. | .. | .. | .. | Lune. |
| June 22nd | .. | .. | .. | .. | Lune. |
| June 26th | .. | .. | .. | .. | Lune. |
| 1860.—May 9th | .. | .. | .. | .. | Clwyd. |
| May 10th | .. | .. | .. | .. | Clwyd. |
| May 12th | .. | .. | .. | .. | Elwy. |
| May 14th | .. | .. | .. | .. | Elwy. |
| May 15th | .. | .. | .. | .. | Clwyd. |
| July 11th | .. | .. | .. | .. | Lune. |
| July 12th | .. | .. | .. | .. | Lune. |
| July 13th | .. | .. | .. | .. | Lune. |
| 1861.—May 7th | .. | .. | .. | .. | Lune. |
| May 8th | .. | .. | .. | .. | Lune. |
| June 10th | .. | .. | .. | .. | Clwyd. |
| September 12th | .. | .. | .. | .. | Hodder. |
| October 2nd | .. | .. | .. | .. | Ribble. |
| 1862.—May 1st | .. | .. | .. | .. | Little Ribble. |
| May 23rd | .. | .. | .. | .. | Clwyd. |
| May 24th | .. | .. | .. | .. | Clwyd. |

| | | | | | |
|-------------------|----|----|----|----|----------------|
| 1862.—August 27th | .. | .. | .. | .. | Lune. |
| August 28th | .. | .. | .. | .. | Lune. |
| 1863.—May 21st | .. | .. | .. | .. | Calder. |
| June 25th | .. | .. | .. | .. | Calder. |
| July 28th | .. | .. | .. | .. | Lune. |
| July 29th | .. | .. | .. | .. | Lune. |
| July 30th | .. | .. | .. | .. | Lune. |
| August 28th | .. | .. | .. | .. | Lune. |
| August 29th | .. | .. | .. | .. | Lune. |
| September 17th | .. | .. | .. | .. | Hodder. |
| 1864.—April 12th | .. | .. | .. | .. | Barton Brook. |
| April 27th | .. | .. | .. | .. | Lostock. |
| May 12th | .. | .. | .. | .. | Wharfe. |
| 1865.—June 20th | .. | .. | .. | .. | Lune. |
| September 26th | .. | .. | .. | .. | Wharfe. |
| October 5th | .. | .. | .. | .. | Ribble. |
| 1866.—May 24th | .. | .. | .. | .. | Lune. |
| June 5th | .. | .. | .. | .. | Little Ribble. |
| October 17th | .. | .. | .. | .. | Hodder. |
| 1867.—June 18th | .. | .. | .. | .. | Ribble. |
| September 26th | .. | .. | .. | .. | Calder. |
| 1868.—August 19th | .. | .. | .. | .. | Lune. |
| September 24th | .. | .. | .. | .. | Ribble. |
| 1869.—June 8th | .. | .. | .. | .. | Lune. |
| August 24th | .. | .. | .. | .. | Lune. |
| August 25th | .. | .. | .. | .. | Lune. |
| 1870.—May 10th | .. | .. | .. | .. | Ribble. |
| June 2nd | .. | .. | .. | .. | Lune. |
| June 3rd | .. | .. | .. | .. | Wenning. |



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